



Daily Report

Near East & South Asia

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10 May 1991

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NOTICE TO READERS: On 6 May 1991, the DAILY REPORT will begin phasing in new radio and television sourcelines that reflect how a station identifies itself. This change eliminates the "Domestic Service" and "Television Service" designations in favor of the station identification as broadcast. The presence of a new sourceline reflects this change in policy, rather than the establishment of a new station or network.

NOTICE TO READERS: An * indicates material not disseminated in electronic form.

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Palestinian Affairs

'Arafat Renews Rejection of Autonomy Principle

LD0905134591 Tunis Domestic Service in Arabic
1300 GMT 9 May 91

[Text] Regarding the Palestinian position, president Yasser 'Arafat has renewed his rejection of the autonomy principle for the Palestinians. He stressed adherence to the Palestine National Council resolution regarding the establishment of a confederation with Jordan according to the free choice of both peoples, given that this issue is a Palestinian-Jordanian matter that does not concern the United Nations, Israel, or the United States.

Furthermore, Yasser 'Arafat warned that the number of Soviet Jews emigrating to occupied Palestine will reach 5 million by 1995. They will settle not only in the West Bank and Gaza Strip, but also in south Lebanon, he asserted.

'Arafat Letter to Children's Meeting Views Peace

LD0905201191 Algiers Voice of Palestine in Arabic
1702 GMT 9 May 91

[Excerpts] Brothers, we greet you and present to you the letter addressed by the president, the leader, Abu-'Ammar [Yasser 'Arafat], to the international conference on the Palestinian child, which is being held in Vienna:

Dear brothers, the chairman and members of the international conference: Please let me present to you, on behalf of the children of Palestine, in the homeland and those scattered everywhere, on behalf of the mothers and women of Palestine, the Palestinian people, and the members of the Palestinian leadership, and on my own behalf, thanks for your initiative in holding this international conference on the children of Palestine. [passage omitted]

We have the right to request the UN Security Council apply the same criteria and act in the same manner as it did in dealing with the Gulf crisis to face Israel's stubbornness and apply pressure on its rulers to respect this legitimacy and implement all UN Security Council resolutions concerning the Arab-Israeli conflict and its core issue, the Palestinian situation.

We express our regret and amazement at the U.S. stance on this, which prevents the international community and the UN Security Council from pressuring Israel, even after this became clear to the one close to the situation and the one far from it, and even after U.S. Secretary of State Baker's recent admission that it is Israel's rulers obstructing this serious peace process, no one else. [passage omitted]

Mediator Ibrahim Meets With 'Arafat in Tunis

NC1005064791 Beirut Voice of Lebanon in Arabic
0315 GMT 10 May 91

[Text] Mediator Muhsin Ibrahim, secretary general of the Communist Action Organization, continued his mediation efforts with the PLO in Tunis. Yesterday he met with PLO Chairman Yasser 'Arafat, George Habash, secretary general of the Popular Front for the Liberation of Palestine, and Nayif Hawatimah, secretary general of the Democratic Front for the Liberation of Palestine, were present.

The Democratic Front has called for the formation of a PLO delegation to hold direct negotiations with the Lebanese Government.

'Arafat Talks With Yemeni Foreign Minister

LD0905200691 Algiers Voice of Palestine in Arabic
1702 GMT 9 May 91

[Text] President brother Abu-'Ammar [Yasser 'Arafat] yesterday received His Excellency Yemeni Foreign Minister 'Abd-al-'Aziz al-Dahi and his accompanying delegation. The minister delivered to brother Abu-'Ammar a message concerning Arab solidarity and bringing the Arabs together again.

The meeting discussed the conditions and latest developments in the area; developments in the Palestinian issue; the escalation of the Zionist policy of annexation and building settlements on Palestinian land; attempts to shelve the Palestinian issue; and attempts to by-pass Palestinian rights, which were approved by the Arab and Islamic sumits and by international legitimacy.

Commentary Views Hopes for Bessmertnykh Tour

LD0905191191 Algiers Voice of Palestine in Arabic
1702 GMT 9 May 91

[Station commentary]

[Excerpts] Brothers, Soviet Foreign Minister Bessmertnykh continues his visit to some countries of the region. Although this is not unusual, the visit brings new developments: First, this visit includes occupied Palestine and is the first visit there by a Soviet official since the 1967 war, when the Soviet Union severed ties with the Zionist entity and stipulated that relations would not be resumed until Israel withdrew from the territories it had occupied. Nearly 24 years have passed since that pledge. Second, it is the first time U.S. and Soviet efforts are working together to find a solution to the region's problems. [passage omitted]

What matters to us Arabs, particularly Palestinians, is that the Soviet contribution to the current international peace efforts in the region should be positive, based on the firm principles the Soviet Union has adhered to for around a quarter of a century; namely the implementation of the international legitimacy embodied in Security Council Resolutions 242 and 338 [as heard]. We in the occupied territories hope the end of the East-West cold war and the stability in U.S.-Soviet relations will translate into something positive regarding a peaceful regional settlement. [passage omitted]

We again would like to stress that as a result of these changes in the international arena, Israel no longer has any reason to be suspicious of an international, regional, or other conference. Furthermore, Arabs and Palestinians no longer have reason to insist on convening an international conference. The leading countries—the United States and the Soviet Union—have abandoned their old policy and the path is being laid for a new world order in which no country will be isolated. Therefore, the title "peace conference" is not important; we have to concentrate on the essence of matters. The essence lies in the statement made by former Soviet Foreign Minister Eduard Shevardnadze, in which he called for the United Nations to (?move) firmly and for the UN Security Council to adopt a resolution on imposing sanctions on any Mideast country which might reject entering into direct negotiations to end the conflict in accordance with the Security Council resolutions. This would obligate all the parties to comply with the will for peace.

What we, the sons of the Palestinian people, are asking from Bessmertnykh and the Soviet Union is that they use the cards they possess to pressure Israel to cease settlements in the occupied Arab territories and to stop linking emigration from the Soviet Union to Israel to this condition. This is the first item on the current political agenda as far the Palestinian people are concerned. There is nothing our people fear as much as the continuation of settlements in occupied Palestinian territories. We hope this will be achieved through Bessmertnykh's visit, if the Soviet Union is truly serious about maintaining a fair perception of the crisis.

PLO Negotiating Arab Summit To Coordinate Stands

JN1005070091 Amman AL-DUSTUR in Arabic
10 May 91 pp 1, 14

[By Nabil 'Amr in Amman]

[Text] The PLO is continuing negotiations with Amman, Damascus, Beirut, and Cairo to hold a five-party summit meeting between the leaders of these capitals and the PLO. The participants will coordinate the positions of the frontline states on international actions concerning the Palestine question, especially U.S. efforts and the regional tours by U.S. Secretary of State James Baker and Soviet Foreign Minister Aleksandr Bessmertnykh.

Informed Palestinian sources told AL-DUSTUR that the Jordanian position is very positive, and that the Egyptian position has grown more flexible and more appreciative of the PLO stance after the two meetings between PLO Executive Committee member Mahmud 'Abbas, alias Abu-Mazin, and Egyptian Foreign Minister 'Ismat 'Abd-al- Majid and other Egyptian officials.

The sources added that the Syrian and Lebanese positions are one and the same. They said this position, whether positive or negative, will reflect on the efforts of PLO Executive Committee member Abu-'Ali Mustafa, who has recently been assigned by the PLO Central Council to hold contacts with Syria. The PLO has also tried to renew contacts with Syria through Muhsin Ibrahim, leader of the Lebanese Communist Action Organization, who is a friend of both sides.

The sources said that Mr. Ibrahim, who has met with Palestinian President Yasir 'Arafat in Algiers, explained to the latter Syria's views on relations with the PLO. Mr. Ibrahim met earlier with Syrian Vice President 'Abd-al-Halim Khaddam.

The sources said Algeria, Libya, other Arab countries, and Arab personalities are still making rapid efforts to bring Palestinian and Syrian views closer.

In a related development, AL-DUSTUR has learned that the Syrian-Palestinian dialogue may start first with the Fatah Movement through independent Palestinian figures sympathetic with Fatah and having open lines with Damascus.

Algeria

Islamic Front Leader Outlines New Platform

LD0905155491 Algiers Domestic Service in Arabic
1200 GMT 9 May 91

[Excerpt] The Islamic Salvation Front [FIS] yesterday organized a rally at Setif addressed by Cheikh Sahnouni and Cheikh Ali Belhadj. Our colleague Faysal Ghanis reports:

[Begin Ghanis recording] Yesterday's rally focused on the 8 May 1945 massacre in Setif, the current political situation in the country, and the forthcoming legislative elections. In his address on the anniversary, Cheikh Hachemi Sahnouni pointed out that it is time to demand that France compensates Algeria for the lives lost on 1945 and for a century and a half of colonization and exploitation. Even Ali Belhadj announced that when an Islamic State is established in Algeria, it will demand compensation from France for every martyr.

Hachemi Sahnouni spoke at length in the political part of the rally. His address included new points in the FIS manifesto. He announced that the FIS will take part in the forthcoming legislative elections at the level of all constituencies. He did not link that to the conditions announced by Abassi Madani in his recent television discussion with Abdelhamid Mehri.

He also revealed some facts regarding the non-alliance of the FIS with other Islamic parties, which he mentioned without naming them. He was referring to the Hamas movement. The FIS has fundamental rather than superficial differences with this movement. Sahnouni said that Hamas divided the ranks of Muslims when it became a party, while it claimed to be calling for unity. Sahnouni said: Its leaders stress that priority on reaching power will not be given to the implementation of the Islamic Shari'ah, but rather to educating and preparing the people to accept the shari'ah; for its part, the FIS, on attaining power, will start to implement the principles and bases of the Islamic state from the outset, Sahnoun said.

Sahnouni summarized FIS priorities in the event of gaining a majority in the next parliament, in three points: 1) to change the constitution, because it includes blasphemy; 2) to expel the president because he is a traitor; 3) to ban the activities of secular parties because the land is that of Islam and has no room for anything other than Islam.

Hachemi Sahnouni reaffirmed the FIS decision to organize a general and comprehensive strike without declaring the date. He also said that the regime is preparing to fight the FIS through the media, the judiciary, and the trade unions.

Ali Belhadj also talked about the schemes hatched against the FIS. The national press was not spared Ali Belhadj's criticism. For him, the press lacks honesty, particularly when covering FIS meetings.

Meanwhile, Hamas movement leader Cheikh Mahfoud Nahnah does not dismiss his party's alliance with the National Liberation Front or the FIS in the second round of the forthcoming legislative elections. [passage omitted] [end recording]

Daawa Urges Bendjedid To Examine Electoral Bills

LD0905222691 Algiers Domestic Service in Arabic
1830 GMT 9 May 91

[Text] The Islamic Daawa League addressed a message to President Chadli Bendjedid today in which it urged the need to look again into the two bills regulating elections and electoral districts. The league's message contends that the two bills were introduced through a narrow partisan diligence and not through a just vision and a just legal religious interpretation which surmounts partisan and regional bias.

Egypt

Further on Withdrawal From Saudi Arabia, Kuwait

'Military Source' Discusses Return

NC0905185991 Cairo MENA in Arabic 1433 GMT
9 May 91

[Text] Cairo, 9 May (MENA)—An Egyptian military source has said that the decision to return Egyptian troops from Saudi Arabia and Kuwait is being implemented quickly and according to the strategic transportation plan laid down by the Armed Forces General Command. The decision to withdraw the troops follows the completion of their mission of liberating Kuwait and the restoration of legitimacy there, the source added.

The source pointed out that the plan is being implemented accurately and efficiently, the way these same troops were transported to Saudi Arabia at the beginning of the Gulf crisis.

The military source noted that the Egyptian troops are in good spirits, that they are happy to return to the homeland, and that they are proud of the mission they have accomplished. The source noted that a number of the returnees are spending their leave in the homeland with relatives after a long absence.

The source added that the Armed Forces General Command will issue another statement upon the return of all the troops to the homeland.

'Displeasure' With Kuwait

JN1005063891 Paris Radio Monte Carlo in Arabic
0600 GMT 10 May 91

[Hisham Milhim dispatch from Washington]

[Excerpts] The United States has begun intensive contacts with Egypt to contain the repercussions of Cairo's decision to withdraw its forces from Kuwait. A senior

U.S. official said Washington, which was surprised by President Mubarak's position, does not consider it a final decision, adding that Defense Secretary Dick Cheney, who has ended his Gulf tour, will discuss the matter closely with Egypt and the Gulf states.

In a statement to Radio Monte Carlo, Egyptian diplomatic sources in the U.S. capital endorsed this preliminary U.S. evaluation. They are of the view that despite President Mubarak's deep displeasure with the Kuwaiti authorities' treatment of Egyptian civilian and military personnel in Kuwait and Kuwait's failure to honor its economic promises to Egypt, he has not completely closed the door to efforts to create an Arab defense structure in the Gulf with Egypt's participation.

The Egyptian sources added that the step is aimed at dealing a political shock to the Gulf states, particularly Kuwait, and that this step was taken without any coordination with Washington. [passage omitted]

Cairo is expected to explain to Washington the reason for its displeasure with Kuwait. The Egyptian sources said President Mubarak received detailed reports from international and Egyptian human rights organizations on the violation of Egyptian rights in Kuwait. He also received many complaints from Egyptian officers in Kuwait on the bad treatment they received compared with U.S. troops, for instance. The sources said that Kuwait has so far not compensated the Egyptian workers for their losses in Kuwait, and has retreated from its promises that it would grant Egypt 10 percent of the contracts for reconstructing Kuwait. [passage omitted]

Chief Editor Views Withdrawal

NC1005102591 Cairo MENA in Arabic 0827 GMT
10 May 91

[Text] Cairo, 10 May (MENA)—AL-JUMHURIYAH newspaper asserts that President Husni Mubarak's decision to withdraw Egyptian forces from Saudi Arabia and Kuwait is one of the most crucial, important decisions in the nation's history. Chief Editor Mahfuz al-Ansari, in an article published today, says that pan-Arab obligations, patriotic motives, and the considerations of legitimacy and principles that prompted President Mubarak's decision to send these forces for defense and liberation are the same—or part of—those factors that governed and crystalized his important decision to withdraw them. Al-Ansari said that by sending these forces into the battle of duty, right, and legitimacy, Mubarak emphasized Egypt's role, status, and responsibility. His decision to withdraw them underlines the same commitment to principles and responsibility. Al-Ansari said: Nonetheless, I would have liked the decision to withdraw the forces to have been a positive Arab one, as was the decision to send them. He pointed out that an Arab decision means that its considerations be clear and its Arab reasons be in line and in harmony with an eight-member coordination: the unanimous Damascus Declaration.

Al-Ansari said that resolutions passed by countries and their leaders are sovereign. Saudi Arabia, the United Arab Emirates, and others have the right to request that the forces withdraw, but unknown considerations remain. Al-Ansari wonders: Why then were the Damascus Declaration and its commitments adopted? What is the reason for the statements—statements linking Gulf security with Iran and other foreign parties—released by the six Gulf Cooperation Council foreign ministers at their conference? He asks: If security in the Gulf has been restored and stability prevails; if the danger has been removed and defeated after what happened to Iraq, its army, and occupied land and, consequently, the Egyptian forces are no longer needed, what then is the meaning of U.S. Secretary of Defense Richard Cheney's visit to the region and his talks on security and its arrangements? He also wondered about the meaning of continued talk of security arrangements in the Gulf with Iran. He asks: What is the fate of the document signed by eight foreign ministers of their own free will without coercion or pressure, a document whose ink has not yet dried?

'Abd-al-Majid Receives 2 Messages From Genscher

NC0905185191 Cairo MENA in Arabic 1349 GMT
9 May 91

[Text] Cairo, 9 May (MENA)—Dr. 'Ismat 'Abd-al-Majid, deputy prime minister and foreign minister, received two messages from German Foreign Minister Hans-Dietrich Genscher today. The messages were delivered by (Heinz Fedler), German ambassador in Cairo, during a meeting here today.

Speaking after the meeting, the German ambassador stated that the first message dealt with bilateral relations, particularly with respect to Egypt's talks at the Paris Club and the German Government's support for Egypt at these talks. He hoped that Egypt will conclude an agreement with the Paris Club soon.

The ambassador said that the second message outlines Germany's views on Middle East developments. He hoped that in the coming days or weeks some progress will be made in the peace process in light of the current efforts in this respect. He noted that Egypt is the center of diplomatic contacts in the region.

Regarding the Palestinian issue, the German ambassador said the problem has existed for approximately 45 years and is very complicated. He noted that will be difficult to find a solution to this problem soon. We have to be patient and optimistic, he added.

DPRK Workers Party Delegation Arrives

NC0705190791 Cairo MENA in Arabic 1815 GMT
7 May 91

[Text] Cairo, 7 May (MENA)—A DPRK Workers Party of Korea delegation led by Central Committee Secretary Choe Tae-pok arrived in Cairo this evening on a five-day

visit to Egypt. In an arrival statement, he said that the visit is in response to an invitation by the National Democratic Party to strengthen friendly relations between the two parties. He said that he is carrying a written message to President Hosni Mubarak from Korean leader Kim Il-sung in reply to his written message conveyed by People's Assembly Speaker Fathi Surur during his visit to the DPRK on 2 May.

Meets With Mubarak

NC0805102691 Cairo MENA in Arabic 0915 GMT
8 May 91

[Text] Cairo, 8 May (MENA)—President Muhammad Hosni Mubarak received a delegation from the DPRK Workers Party of Korea at the Presidential Office in Heliopolis this morning.

The meeting was attended by Dr. Fathi Muhammad 'Ali, chairman of the Vocational Activity Committee of the National Democratic Party.

The DPRK delegation, which is led by Central Committee Secretary Choe Tae-pok, arrived in Cairo yesterday evening for a five-day visit.

Decrees Detail New State Budget Figures

NC0905163391 Cairo AL-AHRAM in Arabic
7 May 91 p 1

[Excerpts] President Hosni Mubarak has issued two republican decrees referring to two People's Assembly and Consultative Council bills, the first concerning the state budget for the fiscal year 1991-92, which begins on 1 July, and the second on the general framework of the economic and social development plan for the same year.

The allocations for investment total 18.8 billion Egyptian pounds. This includes 10.7 billion pounds for the public sector, which will be financed by the National Investment Bank, and 8.1 billion pounds for the private sector.

The state will bear 9 percent of the interest on soft loans—which should not exceed 1 billion pounds—for the reclamation and cultivation of land, 6 percent for flood security projects, and 5 percent for export projects.

The development plan projects an average rate of growth of 5.3 percent in 11 state sectors compared to the 1990-91 fiscal year.

The total budget expenditure is estimated at 54.431 billion pounds while revenues of 50.343 billion pounds are expected, leaving a deficit of 4.087 [figure as published] billion pounds which will be financed by the banking system. Government departments will not be able to commit or spend funds for listed investment projects except in light of guidance by the National Investment Bank. [passage omitted]

The projected growth rate in various sectors is as follows: agriculture, 3.1 percent; industry and mining, 5.8 percent; oil, 2 percent; electricity, 6 percent; construction,

5.5 percent; transportation, communications, and the Suez Canal, 7.1 percent; trade, finance, and insurance, 4.5 percent; tourism, 38.9 percent; housing and utilities, 10.6 percent; social services, 4.6 percent; and government services, 4 percent. The projected average growth rate will be 5.3 percent.

The revenues from taxes were estimated at 10.71 billion pounds; customs at 5.404 billion pounds; sales tax at 5.959 billion pounds; oil surplus at 3.389 billion pounds; Suez Canal surplus at 2.368 billion pounds; economic organizations surplus at 113 million pounds; surplus of the public sector's companies and organizations at 1.15 billion pounds; and the central bank's surplus 4.027 billion pounds. [passage omitted]

Daily Assesses U.S., USSR Peace Efforts

NC1005084091 Cairo Domestic Service in Arabic
0335 GMT 10 May 91

[From the press review]

[Text] In its editorial headlined, "Peace Efforts and Arab Solidarity," AL-JUMHURIYAH says that the meeting between U.S. Secretary of State James Baker and his Soviet counterpart Bessmertnykh in Cairo will deal with the progress in Middle Eastern peace. The meeting will provide the representatives of the two superpowers a chance to exchange ideas, learn the latest positions of the various parties and the points on which agreement can be reached, and focus on the positive aspects leading to stability and security in the region and to consolidating the new world order that endorses dialogue as a way to solve regional problems.

AL-JUMHURIYAH states that the circumstances are appropriate for achieving maximum positive results: The Soviet minister is coming to Cairo, which adopts clear positions and firm principles, and Baker's new tour signifies that the U.S. assessment of the previous efforts is positive and worth continuing. The paper calls on the Arabs to adopt a unified position within this framework, a position that knows what can be accepted and what must be rejected. This position is particularly important because, in its political and diplomatic efforts, Egypt skillfully focused on substance and not formalities. The proposed framework is appropriate as an approach to constructive dialogue that will eventually achieve a just and comprehensive peace in the region.

Paper Says Israel Behind 'Anti-Arab Campaign'

NC0805101691 Cairo MENA in Arabic 0630 GMT
8 May 91

[Text] Cairo, 8 May (MENA)—In its editorial today, AL-AHRAM comments on the anti-Arab campaign being launched by the Western mass media. It says that there are concrete, although isolated, indications that a new campaign of antipathy toward Arabs is in the making, particularly now that the campaign against Saddam Husayn as a bloodthirsty Arab is nearing its end.

It is not hard to trace this campaign back to Israel and the Zionist activity abroad in this decisive year in which the U.S. presidential election campaign gets under way.

AL-AHRAM adds that accusations are being leveled in the West against certain Arab countries and their desire to succeed Iraq as a producer of nuclear and chemical weapons. If Iraq itself is still being accused of concealing undeclared amounts of enriched uranium, the campaign has also been renewed against Libya, which is accused of resuming poison gas production, and against Algeria, which is being accused of carrying out a secret project to manufacture the first nuclear bomb in the Arab world with China's help.

AL-AHRAM believes that this storm is closely related to attempts to divert attention from Israel, the only state possessing nuclear weapons in the region, at a time when plans are being developed to resolve the Middle East problems and eliminate internationally prohibited weapons from it. The campaign also marks the start of an effort to portray Arabs as unreliable regional and international double-dealers, so that Israel can appear as the only trustworthy party.

On the national dialogue page of AL-AHRAM, writer Hasan Abu-Talib touches on the same subject. He says that the main objectives of such campaigns are no longer a secret to anyone in the Arab region. The first goal is to obstruct any real Arab development effort in the field of science and knowledge. The second goal is linked to the desire by a number of international powers to maintain Israel's monopoly in this important field of knowledge in the region.

The writer adds that the campaign against Algeria is linked to earlier campaigns, such as that against Iraq for possessing nuclear abilities; that against Syria for harboring terrorists and arming itself with missiles; and that against Libya for manufacturing chemical weapons.

The writer warns against persisting with such campaigns, fabricated now and then by the West against Arab parties.

Sudan

Plans Announced To Change National Currency

Al-Bashir Announces Plan

EA090514191 Omdurman Sudan Broadcasting Service Network in Arabic 1700 GMT 6 May 91

[Statement by Lieutenant General 'Umar Hasan Ahmad al-Bashir, Revolution Command Council chairman and chairman of the Council of Ministers, on Sudan's economic situation; place, date not given—live or recorded]

[Text] In the name of God; the compassionate, and the merciful. Praise to the one God, salutations and greetings be upon him after whom there is no other prophet.

Dear citizens, the loyal people of Sudan. God's peace, mercy and blessings be upon you all.

From the day the revolution was touched off it aimed to save the homeland from the state of deterioration it has undergone. You know that the frightening economic deterioration was one of the motives for the (useful) change. One of the troubles that the revolution said should be tackled was economic. It called the economic conference which included all those concerned with and working in the economic field. The conference came out with resolutions and recommendations to reform the course of the Sudanese economy. These were adopted by the Revolution Command Council and the Council of Ministers. The policy of the government was then based on these, as represented by the tripartite program for economic salvation.

The most prominent manifestation of the uneasiness that the economy suffered was the phenomenon of excessive liquidity resulting from successive governments having printed currency and having distributed this into the economy to meet the requirements of government expenditures and consumption, without taking into due consideration the impact of this expenditure on production. The consequence of this huge surplus of currency was a great increase in inflation.

This situation led to involvement in harmful speculation and extensive overbidding on principal commodities such as grain, foreign currency, and land. This in turn led to an unjustifiable (rise) in the prices of some commodities such as maize, sesame seeds, and others. This big rise in prices in turn led to the stumbling of exports and the inability of our exports to compete on the world markets. In turn, this led to a fall in the government's revenues from foreign currency, thus aggravating the scarcity of foreign currency. This enabled speculators in hard currencies to raise the prices of other currencies.

One of the most dangerous features of the excessive liquidity was its presence outside the banking system. This made the state incapable of utilizing it properly in spite of monetary policies, measures, and insurance policies followed by the state in the past.

The government, in accordance with the tripartite program for economic salvation, adopted sound policies and decisions to revive the economy, such as prices for agricultural products to encourage agricultural production. It liberated industrial products and allowed the import of inputs for industrial production and construction materials, through commercial investment.

The government pursued price policies as incentives for the production of commodities. The government subsidized their inputs as was the case for wheat, the price of which was doubled this year. These policies had positive results as people moved to agriculture and increased the cultivated areas for the first time in scores of years in the irrigated areas of the White Nile and the northern areas and in the irrigated projects in the central and eastern

part of the country. [Words indistinct] prices of commodities and raw materials in the market as preludes to reviving production and construction operations. These positive results and this movement along the right path, however, continued to be threatened with collapse because of excessive increases in commodity prices, due basically to increased liquidity in the hands of the public.

The state has decided to take a fundamental and effective measure to control liquidity, namely changing the national currency for a new currency. The first objective of this measure is to channel the increased liquidity and assist in channeling it into the banking system. For this purpose I direct the governors of the states, their deputies and commissioners, as well as commanders of military commands and units and commanders of other regular units, and every employee of the central government or of the states or state corporations or parastatals, and all Sudanese embassies and consulates abroad to do the following:

To exert themselves to (apply) this matter to all citizens under them by all means of [word indistinct].

To adhere closely to and ensure strict implementation of the directives issued following this from the governor of the Bank of Sudan on this matter.

To cooperate to the utmost [words indistinct] in the implementation of the currency change within the period fixed so that nobody's rights are infringed.

Dear citizens, this is a call for reform. It can only be achieved by yourselves and with your cooperation and its good effects will benefit you and this dear homeland.

God help us all for that is good. God is great. Glory to Sudan. God's peace, mercy, and blessings be upon you all.

Finance Officials Comment

EA0905145591 Khartoum SUNA in English
0944 GMT 8 May 91

[Text] Khartoum, 8 May (SUNA)—The finance and economic planning minister said the decision of currency change is strategic and made to convert the Sudanese economy into a nonmonetary one. It is also to control excessive liquidity and incorporate it into the banking system.

'Abd-al-Rahim Hamdi said that the current monetary situation made it difficult for the government and its available economic tools of the budget, fiscal policies, banking system and credit policy to implement government economic policies and control over the economy.

In a press briefing, Hamdi said that the decision is not a political move, instead it came as a strategic overall remedy to the economy through controlling money supply.

On the other hand, the governor of the Central Bank of Sudan disclosed that the government has become incapable of carrying out its economic policies as a result of

excessive liquidity outside the banking system. Shaykh Said Ahmad al-Shaykh, speaking to a press briefing to local media, disclosed that the money being circulated outside the banking system amounted to about 17 billion Sudanese pounds, while the banks possess only two billion pounds. He summed up the reasons of currency change as rationalisation of the excessive liquidity now in circulation, channelling it into the banking system, preventing speculations in foreign exchange and commodities and curbing inflation.

Bank Governor's Statement

EA0905143691 Omdurman Sudan Broadcasting System
Network in Arabic 1700 GMT 6 May 91

[Statement by al-Shaykh Said Ahmad al-Shaykh, the governor of the Bank of Sudan, on changing currency; place, date not given—live or recorded]

[Text] In the name of God, the compassionate, the merciful. You have heard the important statement issued by the chairman of the Revolution Command Council and the Council of Ministers and his decision to change the current currency for a new one. In response to the president's directive relating to [word indistinct] the matter to the citizens and the simplification of measures to enable them to exchange the currency they have, I wish to explain the following:

1. The process of exchanging currency for the public will start on Sunday morning, 12 May 1991, in the branches of the Bank of Sudan and other banks and at the additional exchange points will be set up particularly for this purpose in all parts of Sudan. A list of the location of these points will be issued later.

2. Currency in bank notes of one pound, 50 piastres, and 25 piastres will not be affected by the change and will continue to be legal tender.

3. To facilitate the matter for the public and to avoid long waits in queues, we advise those who have currency to exchange to deposit it in their bank accounts. The change will be effected against deposited sums automatically. The banks will from that date issue only the new currency.

4. We advise the members of the public who have no current accounts in the banks to hasten to open current accounts to facilitate this operation.

5. I wish to direct all banks to take all possible measures to facilitate this task for the citizens by increasing cash counters and facilitating the opening of accounts for the public, to receive their deposits and to reduce the routine which is normally followed when new accounts are opened, when dealing with the public.

God give us success.

Foreign Minister Opens Talks With PRC Official

EA0905175491 Khartoum SUNA in French
0918 GMT 6 May 91

[Text] Khartoum, 6 May (SUNA)—Talks between Sudan and China started on Monday in Khartoum under the chairmanships of Mr. Ali Ahmad Sahlul, foreign minister, and the PRC deputy minister of foreign affairs.

The two sides exchanged views on the situation in the Middle East and on the African Continent as well as on the new international order. The two sides affirmed their firm position on the Palestinian issue and also the necessity to solve this under the aegis of an international conference attended by the five permanent member countries of the Security Council and those concerned.

Mr. Sahlul affirmed that his government is making intensive efforts to strengthen Arab solidarity and solve the disagreement between Arab countries.

The Chinese official stressed the necessity to found the new international order on the principles of equality, sovereignty, independence, and noninterference in peoples' affairs. He added that it is necessary to solve international issues through the participation of all the countries of the world without any distinction between rich and poor countries in order to achieve peace and progress in the world.

Khalifah Meets Minister

EA0905180091 Khartoum SUNA in Arabic
1005 GMT 6 May 91

[Text] Khartoum, 6 May (SUNA)—Brigadier Muhammad al-Amin Khalifah, Revolution Command Council (RCC) member and deputy chairman of the Political Committee, has said that Sudan's relations are based on good-neighborliness and the rejection of hegemony and interference in the internal affairs of others. He said this yesterday when he met here the deputy foreign minister of China. He also said that Sudan is striving to develop its future relations with the five countries such as China.

The Chinese deputy foreign minister said that the Chinese Government is in agreement with the Sudanese Government on the need for self-reliance and noninterference in the internal affairs of others. He expressed his (hopex) that the problem of the south would be solved peacefully to enable Sudan to have more opportunities for development and progress.

Tunisia

Opposition, Government Condemn Ennahda Violence

LD0905194791 Paris International Service in French
1830 GMT 9 May 91

[Text] Classes have been suspended in several Tunisian universities following the serious incidents that took

place yesterday in the Tunis faculties. The incidents left two students dead. The authorities accuse the members of the Ennahda Islamic movement of being behind these events which simultaneously occurred in several places in the country. Many arrests were made. The opposition has reacted to these events. Rida Boughezi reports:

[Begin Boughezi recording] All the parties of the legal opposition without exception have strongly denounced in a joint communique published this afternoon the violent acts committed in Tunis University by Islamist students, which left two dead among them. We condemn the decision of escalation taken by the Ennahda movement whose commandos attacked educational establishments with Molotov cocktails, one reads in this joint communique, the first of its kind to be signed by the six opposition parties, who thus join the official authorities in their condemnation of the attitude of Ennahda Islamists. Ennahda finds itself now more isolated than ever.

This fast reaction of the secular opposition parties comes at a time when the regime is making overtures toward it and offering it new possibilities for dialogue. Last December, the opposition was criticized for its silence following the discovery of an Islamist network which was planning to carry out sabotage acts. Today the reconciliation between the regime and the secular opposition seems to be complete. The common enemy is identified as violence, with fundamentalism as its basis. One can simply conclude that the Islamists of Ennahda are well and truly caught between the devil and the deep blue sea. [end recording]

Ennahdah Leader Condemns 'Repressive' Government

LD1005024191 London KUNA in Arabic
1710 GMT 9 May 91

[Text] The leader of the Ennahdah Movement in Tunisia, Mr. Rached Ghannouchi, has accused the government of Tunisian President Zine El Abidine Ben Ali of exploiting the Gulf War for the liberation of Kuwait "to proceed with his security measures to liquidate the movement, and finish the process that former President Bourguiba began but was unable to finish."

Ghannouchi said in a news conference, held here today at the invitation of the Islamic Council, that "the events that followed the occupation of Kuwait took place at a time when Ben Ali's regime was in a complete rift with the country's political parties, and thereby he exploited pro-Iraqi feelings in the country in dealing a blow to his opponents." He admitted that the Tunisian regime has managed to deal successive blows to the Ennahdah Movement.

Ghannouchi went on to say that by the end of the events in the Gulf "seven young members of the Movement had been killed, and 1200 people detained—among whom were the leaders of the Movement—while the world was still occupied by the Gulf war, the biggest news at that time." He added that "Once the Gulf war ended, pain

and suffering returned to the people of Tunisia; freedoms were tightened; and the country's real problems returned to the fore."

During the news conference, Ghannouchi dwelt on reports from Tunis on large-scale clashes in the universities and on the streets between students and the regime. He pointed out that the police stormed Tunis University using automatic weapons against the students, killing 3 students and wounding a large number of them, as well as detaining 1500 students.

The leader of the Tunisian Ennahdah Movement added that the Tunisian Government withdrew its recognition of the Union of Tunisian Students, which attracts 80 percent of Tunisian students—a matter that led the students to go on general strike following the shutdown of the university and opening of fire against them. Ghannouchi went on to say that pupils also went on strike; they were met with the same methods of repression.

He said that what has taken place is not a transitory or sudden event, expressing his belief that such events are not fortuitous; they have been the hallmark of Ben Ali's regime since he took power three years ago. He urged the annulment of the outcome of the rigged elections held in the country, and the dissolution of the parliament, which does not represent the people.

He pointed out that the movement's demand is for the formation of a provisional government, which should supervise the election of a constituent assembly, carry out under independent supervision the restructuring of the Tunisian state, place the vested powers in an individual, establish people's authority, put an end to repression, and release all prisoners.

Ghannouchi accused the Tunisian Government of continuing its repressive policies and security measures against the Islamic movement, and of introducing a number of bills that restrict political life and put greater pressure on the Movement and its legitimate rights.

He dwelt on what he called the continued campaign to detain more of the Movement leadership, its supporters and sympathizers, and to "extend the combing-out campaign to districts, towns, and villages, terrorize families, violate freedoms, and terrorize the sons of the Tunisian people."

Ghannouchi warned the forces of opposition and all national forces "against the authorities' policies to win them over, and remind them of their duty to defend the interests of the people and their dignity."

Party Meeting Assails 'Terrorism' in Schools

*LD0905193791 Tunis Domestic Service in Arabic
1700 GMT 9 May 91*

[Excerpts] The Political Bureau of the Democratic Constitutional Rally held a meeting today under the chairmanship of Mr Hamid Qaroui, the deputy chairman of the rally, to discuss preparations for the fifth session of

the Central Committee on 18 and 19 May and preparations for holding the congresses of departments and constitutional federations which will begin immediately after the session of the central committee and will last until June. [passage omitted]

The bureau considered the situation in educational and university institutions and the disturbances, incitement and terrorism to which they have recently been (?sub-jected), which were perpetrated by extremist gangs wanting to make of this sensitive sector an arena for implementing their objectives—which go against the interests of the homeland—and to strip those institutions of their noble role and the sacred mission entrusted to [word indistinct] in building the future of the country and consolidating its invincibility.

In the light of the gravity of these terrorist acts and the events which ensued from them, the Political Bureau hails the firm stand of the security police in the face of those acts and strongly condemns their perpetrators and those who support them. It also hails the responsible attitude of the pupils, students, teachers, and administrative assistants and officers who defended the sanctity of their institutions and of education. It appeals to all members of the education community, to the guardians of students, to the combatants of the rally, and to all citizens to keenly protect our educational institutions against all the violence and terrorism that threatens them.

Tension Continues

*LD0905205991 Algiers Domestic Service in Arabic
1830 GMT 9 May 91*

[Text] Tension continued today at a Tunisian university following the killing of two Islamic students during yesterday's clashes between students and security forces. Sources close to the Union of Tunisian Students, an Islamic group, state that the clashes left 27 people wounded, while 100 students were detained by the security forces. Tunisian authorities today sent large security reinforcements to the university, particularly to the departments of law and sciences, which were yesterday the scene of clashes. Following the incidents, Tunisian opposition parties today expressed in a joint statement their deep anxiety over yesterday's incident at the university.

Observers believe that yesterday's incidents were expected, given the fact that Tunisian universities have been witnessing tension since last March, following the Tunisian authorities' decision to ban the Union of Tunisian Students, which is close to the banned Ennahdha Movement.

Foreign Minister Concludes EEC Visit

*LD0905211991 Tunis Domestic Service in Arabic
1700 GMT 9 May 91*

[Excerpts] Foreign Minister Mr Habib Ben Yahia left Brussels this morning on his way back to Tunisia after a two-day working visit to the EEC and Belgium.

Mr Habib Ben Yahia, the first Arab official to be received by the EEC since the Gulf war, explained during the talks he held with political and parliamentary leaders, and also with the media, the need for deepening the relations of mutual understanding and respect.

He pointed out that the main objectives is the consolidation of feelings of solidarity in a very fragile and rare region that has not yet benefitted from the results of international detente.

In this context, he reaffirmed that social, cultural, and economic cooperation is one of the elements behind achieving a common future and that achieving the future of peace called for by countries of the Mediterranean basin, depends on securing comprehensive stability in the region and on settling the Palestinian question. [passage omitted]

Ben Ali Talks With Visiting Burkinabe President

*LD1005004491 Tunis Domestic Service in Arabic
2300 GMT 9 May 91*

[Text] At the republican palace in Carthage President Zine El Abidine Ben Ali held tete-a-tete talks with President Blaise Campaore, leader of the Popular Front and head of state in Burkina Faso.

The official spokesman for the presidency stated that the talks dealt with a number of questions of mutual interest at a bilateral, regional, and international level. In this connection, he said that the two heads of state discussed

ways of developing bilateral relations and the means to ensure strengthening and widening bilateral cooperation in all fields.

The two presidents also exchanged viewpoints on the coming meetings within the OAU framework and the Islamic Conference Organization and international forum. They renewed their attachment to the principles and aims of these bodies.

President Zine El Abidine Ben Ali reaffirmed to his interlocutor the need to support the OAU and find practical formulas of cooperation between the regional African groupings, in that they are partners in joint African action, Afro-Arab solidarity, and Afro-Islamic and South-South cooperation.

The official spokesman noted that President Zine El Abidine Ben Ali and President Blaise Campaore in their talks also touched on Middle East issues and the Gulf area, and the efforts that are being made to find solutions to these issues. In this connection President Zine El Abidine Ben Ali affirmed that peace and security in the Middle East cannot be established without finding a just and lasting solution to the Palestinian issue. The two heads of state saluted on this occasion the heroic struggle of the Palestinian people for recovering their legitimate rights under the PLO leaderships.

The two heads of state also touched on the situation in South Africa. They strongly condemned the apartheid regime, and supported the struggle of the people of South Africa for recovering their dignity and full rights.

At the end of his statement, the official spokesman said that the two heads of state put on record with satisfaction the identity of the viewpoints of the two sides on all the current issues. They stressed their eagerness to step up the exchange of visits between the officials in their two countries, and strengthen consultation and dialogue between them on whatever might push forward bilateral cooperation and strengthen joint African action.

Assembly Adopts New Foreign Relations 'Strategy'

JN1005111791 Baghdad INA in Arabic 1025 GMT
10 May 91

[Text] Baghdad, 10 May (INA)—The National Assembly's Arab and International Affairs Committee has adopted a new working strategy aimed at enhancing Iraq's foreign relations.

In an interview published today in AL-JUMHURIYAH, Dr. Ahmad al-Nu'aymi, head of the National Assembly's Arab and International Affairs Committee, said the adopted strategy calls for making the best use of experts and specialists in Iraqi research centers and institutions of higher education. At the same time, the committee will be improving its interaction with the experts.

He added that the committee's new strategy has carefully considered the geographic distribution of the committee members' responsibilities in order to monitor activities in the international arena and to guarantee that they keep track of the changes in their areas of responsibility and speciality.

He also pointed out that the committee has taken quick action to contact Arab and world parliaments to break the current deadlock in international relations, to explain matters related to Iraqi foreign policy, and to improve the reputation of Iraqi diplomacy on the level of international political conduct.

He also stressed that the committee is currently consulting with a group of university lecturers and Foreign Ministry diplomats to shed light on Iraqi foreign policy.

Memo Protests 7-8 May U.S.-Saudi Overflights

JN0905143291 Baghdad INA in Arabic 1415 GMT
9 May 91

[Text] New York, 9 May (INA)—U.S.-Saudi aircraft have violated Iraqi airspace by conducting new flights over the capital city of Baghdad, and Mosul, and Dahuk, northern Iraq.

In a memo to the UN secretary general, the permanent Iraqi representative to the United Nations said that U.S.-Saudi aircraft violated Iraqi airspace 7-8 May by flying five sorties, comprised of two formations and one individual sortie. The aircraft were identified as F-15's and F-14's, which flew at altitudes of between 3 and 7 km and at speeds of 700-800 km per hour.

8 May Overflight Protested

JN0905205191 Baghdad Domestic Service in Arabic
2000 GMT 9 May 91

[Text] Two U.S.-Saudi aircraft flying in formation violated Iraqi airspace yesterday.

This was reported in a memo sent to UN Secretary General Javier Perez de Cuellar by Iraq's permanent representative to the United Nations. In the memo, the

Iraqi representative said that the enemy formation flew over 'Aqrah and Mosul in the northern sector in Iraq at a speed of 720 km per hour on a mission of surveillance and harassment.

Cabinet Reduces Budget, Approves Travel Rules

JN0805184891 Baghdad INA in Arabic 1554 GMT
8 May 91

[Text] Baghdad, 8 May (INA)—The Council of Ministers has revised the state general budget in both its investment and current sectors for the remainder of 1991.

Hamid Yusuf Hammadi, minister of culture and information, told INA that in its regular session today, the Council of Ministers approved a 24.7 percent reduction in the allocations for government investment.

He added that after the reduction, the allocations totalled 1.761 billion Iraqi dinars, including an increase in the allocations for basic projects that were damaged by the U.S.-Atlantic-Zionist aggression on Iraq.

The minister of culture and information said that the council approved the state current draft budget, which, after amendments, totalled 13.935 billion dinars. He said that subsidizing the price of wheat and barley had been taken into account and the ministries' plans for tackling the effects of the aggression and for reconstruction.

He said: In its session, chaired by Prime Minister Dr. Sa'dun Hammadi, the Council of Ministers approved the practical regulations concerning the lifting of restrictions on the travel of Iraqis abroad.

He said that the regulations provide that Iraqis can travel abroad without foreign exchange. The regulations of the Central Bank of Iraq concerning the payment of land and air travel fares by travelers abroad will be adopted. The regulations also provide that travel visas will be valid for one year and that men who are 18-41 years old should prove that they have no military service obligations, except for employees with continued service, who should obtain travel permits from their departments.

President Saddam Husayn ordered on 26 April that the restrictions imposed on the travel of Iraqis abroad be lifted as of mid-May. The president also ordered that the Council of Ministers lay down the appropriate practical regulations for the implementation of this order without affecting its substance.

Concluding his statement, Yusuf Hamid Hammudi said: The Council of Ministers approved the proposal of the Ministry of Culture and Information that the National House for Publication and Advertisement be abolished and that it be turned into a mixed joint-stock company in implementation of the state's efforts to refer economic and service activities to the private sector and gradually to withdraw the state from such activities.

'New Consignment' of Medical, Food Aid Arrives*JN0905103791 Baghdad INA in Arabic 0855 GMT
9 May 91*

[Text] Baghdad, 9 May (INA)—Iraq has received a new consignment of medical and food assistance contributed to the Iraqi people by humanitarian Arab and international organizations.

Dr. Ibrahim Ahmad al-Nuri, president of the Iraqi Red Crescent Society, told INA today that the consignment was transported to Iraq via Amman aboard 16 trucks.

It was mentioned that the food and medicine received by the Iraqi society was contributed by the Red Crescent societies of Algeria and Jordan, the Catholic churches group, the European group, the German World Society for Protection Against Nuclear War, and the Japanese international friendship delegation.

Al-Nuri noted that the food and medicine include foodstuffs such as sugar, flour, rice, cooking oil, dried milk, cheese, and mineral water, in addition to water treatment equipment, electricity generators, beds, and blankets.

Al-Nuri said that the League of the Red Cross and Red Crescent Societies is supervising the distribution of these materials in all the Iraqi governorates. He said an Algerian technical and medical team has arrived in Iraq to help extend services to their Iraqi brothers.

On another level, a consignment of medicine estimated at five tonnes was received today. This was contributed by the Sons of Palestinian Martyrs Society—Samid Foundation. A responsible source in the Palestinian Embassy in Baghdad told INA that the medicine, which is manufactured at the Samid Foundation in the occupied Palestinian territory, is a symbol of the Palestinian people's pride in the Iraqi people's services to the Arab causes in general and the Palestinian cause in particular.

Saddam Congratulates Czech President on National Day*JN0905114291 Baghdad INA in Arabic 1105 GMT
9 May 91*

[Text] Baghdad, 9 May (INA)—President Saddam Husayn has sent a congratulatory cable to Czechoslovak President Vaclav Havel on the occasion of his country's national day anniversary. The cable says: On the occasion of the national day of Czechoslovakia, we are pleased to send greetings to your excellency, wishing you personally good health and happiness, your people further progress and well being, and your country constant prosperity.

Radio Views Withdrawal of Egyptian Gulf Troops*JN0905203491 Baghdad Domestic Service in Arabic
1930 GMT 9 May 91*

[Unattributed talk from the "Voice of Egypt of Arabism" program]

[Text] In a speech yesterday, the president of the Egyptian regime announced the withdrawal of all the Egyptian forces that participated in the U.S.-Zionist-Atlantic aggression against Iraq from the Arabian Gulf and Peninsula within a three-month period. The president of the Egyptian regime justified this withdrawal by saying that the forces had completed their duties there and there was no more [words indistinct]. Although he chose his words and phrases to make it appear a sovereign decision, nevertheless, the president of the Egyptian regime did not use [words indistinct] which imposed themselves on the [words indistinct].

The announcement surprised many observers, who considered it a form of declaration in response to recent reports about internal disputes between the [word indistinct] and their allies. It is noteworthy that this is the first time the Egyptian regime has talked about the withdrawal of its forces from the Arabian Gulf and Peninsula. The regime has grown accustomed to saying that these forces will stay there and will play a major part in what has been termed Gulf security.

Since this announcement comes at the end of U.S. Defense Secretary Dick Cheney's tour of the region to make the final arrangements for what is termed Gulf security, observers believe that the withdrawal of Egyptian troops is not a sovereign decision as much as it is a U.S.-Gulf-Saudi demand dictated by a joint agreement to play the coming round of the game by American rules.

Therefore, Cheney has confirmed that the U.S. military presence will stay in the Arabian Gulf and Peninsula region for an undefined period and has refused to announce any details of the agreements made with the countries in the region.

Observers also consider the second part of the speech delivered by the president of the Egyptian regime as the first reaction to remove his regime from the game. In this part of his speech, he announced that countries that do not have borders with occupied Palestine have no right to participate in any arrangements regarding the Palestine question. This clearly refers to rejecting the Saudi role that the United States is attempting to impose on the scheme to settle the Palestine question.

Despite the fact that disagreements among the parties to the aggression are inevitable, as in similar examples, the recent disagreement between the Gulf parties and the Egyptian regime carries many indications within its folds and points of worrying possibilities in the future.

The first indications of this crisis appeared in the harsh treatment of Egyptians by the rulers of Kuwait and the subsequent deliberate rebuff of the Egyptian regime's reconstruction minister and rejection of any Egyptian participation in reconstruction contracts. Thus, resorting to the weapon of slander against the al-Sabah family, the Egyptian regime apprehended Shaykh Nasir al-Sabah on charges of possessing and selling drugs.

The thing that embarrassed the Egyptian regime before the Egyptian people is that it continuously promised this people a share equal to the price paid in Egypt's pride and in the blood of the Egyptian people. If the Egyptian regime does not hide the frustration over the tiny share it managed to obtain from [words indistinct], it should have predicted this. From the outset, the deal was a deal among regimes, which the Egyptian people had nothing to do with. In fact, the people expressed rejection of this deal in every way. The Gulf parties, which have excluded the Egyptian role from the next stage, understand the position of the Egyptian people on the entire issue and prefer a foreign presence of those who are not a party to the Arab-pan-Arab equation and have no aspirations beyond their financial interests.

Is it strange then, for these states to trust U.S.-Zionist forces to provide their security rather than Egyptian forces? These states' preference for foreign labor instead of Arab and Egyptian labor in particular is not new. The parties to the aggression, including the Egyptian regime itself, were not willing from the outset to involve peoples in the plot because of their awareness of the gravity of such [word indistinct]. On this basis, the shares of the deal were distributed among the regimes, not the peoples.

The Egyptian regime's attempt to exclude the Gulf states from the process of liquidating the Palestine question in retaliation for its exclusion from the [word indistinct] of the Gulf security game explains the fact that the dealing by the parties to the plot with regard to the Palestine question does not depart the framework of this deal in all its maneuvers and extortion.

Troops Attack Refugees 'After' U.S. Withdrawal

NC0905202991 (Clandestine) Voice of Rebellious
Iraq in Arabic 1926 GMT 9 May 91

[Text] As we expected, regime troops wearing civilian clothing launched armed attacks against refugees in Safwan. The attacks came moments after the withdrawal of U.S. troops from the region.

According to reports, the inhabitants confronted the attacks and defended themselves. We do not have any follow-ups on the situation, but we have received confirmation that the battle is continuing. Qatari Radio has carried reports confirming that the atmosphere is extremely tense.

Opposition Radio on Talks Between Saddam, Kurds

NC0905154591 (Clandestine) Voice of Iraqi
Opposition in Arabic 1500 GMT 9 May 91

[Text] A Kurdish delegation led by Mas'ud Barzani has begun talks with the tyrant Saddam Husayn. It has been learned that the delegation demanded that all the Iraqi areas inhabited by a Kurdish majority be integrated in the autonomous region.

Well-informed sources in Baghdad said that the dispute continues regarding the oil-rich town of Kirkuk which the Kurds want to annex.

'Open Appeal' Addressed to Kurdish Movement

NC0905193391 (Clandestine) Voice of Iraqi
Opposition in Arabic 1500 GMT 9 May 91

["Text of an open appeal from a number of Iraqi opposition leaders to the Kurdish movement leaders in Iraq;" date not given]

[Text] In the name of God, the merciful, the compassionate. Fulfill every engagement, for every engagement will be inquired into on the day of reckoning. [Koranic verse]

Brothers, leaders of the Kurdish Movement in Iraq: May God's peace and blessings be upon you. We have no doubt that you share our opinion that the Iraqi people have suffered from the successive regimes and their ruling bodies. Our people suffered oppression and persecution and have been deprived of their basic human rights since the establishment of the so-called national rule to date.

We have absolutely no doubt that you share our opinion that the sufferings of our people under Saddam Husayn and his gang has surpassed every previous suffering, and that Iraq had never witnessed a tyrant like him. We, in return, share and acknowledge your opinion that the oppression and persecution inflicted on the Kurds, particularly during the Saddam Husayn era, have surpassed those inflicted on other Iraqis. Saddam subjected the Kurds to mass barbaric killings, something unacceptable by heavenly religion and human principle.

You had a painful and costly experience with Saddam Husayn. This experience must be replete with lessons and examples that you and others can follow. Saddam has breached pledges and agreements. In a state of weakness, he has pledged to respect your rights and recognize you as a people and as human beings. But as soon as he has the situation under control, he will disavow his pledges and devote his time to carry out mass killings and subject you to hunger, displacement, destruction, and acts of sabotage. This is because, as has been proven in the past, he is a creature void of all ethical values and human considerations and dissociated from all the heavenly religious teachings.

Experience and facts have proven that Saddam Husayn is an aggressive and evil creature. He is not only an enemy to mankind, but an enemy to life, to the environment, and to everything beautiful, useful, and dear that has been created by God. Hence, he is an enemy to God, because he is an enemy to God's creatures, particularly human beings who are loved by God. We are not trying, esteemed brothers, to remind you of the things Saddam Husayn did in Halabjah and other beautiful Kurdish places when he used poisonous gas and internationally

banned destructive weapons against the innocent and defenseless citizens of the area.

Moreover, we need not remind you what Saddam Husayn has done to the Kurdish masses through eviction and displacement. His actions have aroused worldwide indignation and denunciation and the sympathy of nations and governments with the Iraqi people in general and the Kurds in particular after a long slumber.

We need not remind you of this and similar examples because the effects of the criminal's crimes are still visible and because Saddam has caused a deep crack and painful wound in the memory and conscience of every noble and honest person who loves and respects humanity, including you Kurds, who are the victims of Saddam and his gang.

We say this, brothers, while the blood of the innocent has not yet dried, in reference to your agreement to negotiate with him and your travel to Baghdad to meet him, shake hands with him, and embrace and kiss him warmly in order to reach a solution with him personally on your problem and put an end to the tragedy of the Kurds in Iraq. This action troubled and pained us for several reasons. We were troubled partly because you are a major partner in the Iraqi opposition's Committee for Joint Action, which issued a statement on 27 December 1990 which generated positive reactions and left a deep impression on Iraqis, both inside and outside Iraq. As you know, brothers, the statement constitutes a moral and ethical commitment to all its signatories on behalf of

the various political and intellectual organizations, currents, and trends they represent. This statement stipulated a number of principles and commitments, including the joint solidarity action to topple Saddam Husayn and overthrow his regime.

For the sake of the unity of the Iraqi people, the unity of the Iraqi opposition, and the unity of the Kurds, and for your own good as leading figures with a long history of struggle and political action, we address this open appeal to you in the hope that you stop negotiating with Saddam and his gang, forget the matter, and put your hands once again in the hands of your brother partners in the Iraqi opposition. We urge you to do this in order to overthrow the corrupt regime and topple the murderous criminal, whose fall is near. Then you will be able to gain your legitimate rights under a constitutional government, (as agreed) upon under the Iraqi opposition's Joint Action statement, within the framework of a radical settlement of the cause of Iraq and the Iraqis, so that they could live in their own free country in security, safety, fraternity, and coexistence, enjoying their human rights. Only then can the believers rejoice with God's victory. Please accept our best and sincerest wishes for success. The signatories: Muhammad al-Alusi, legal counselor; Fulayyih al-Samarra'i, engineer; Muhammad al-Badri, police officer; Fu'ad al-'Ani, journalist; Ihsan Farid, physician; Husayn Muhammad 'Ali, physician; 'Ali Jasim al-Shamari, engineer; 'Imad Hasan, engineer; Mahdi Salih Husayn, engineer; Husayn Ahmad al-Rikabi, businessman; and Ahmad al-Turk, engineer.

Reportage on Soviet Minister Bessmertnykh's Visit

Palestinians Propose Meeting

TA0905185091 Jerusalem Israel Television Network
in Hebrew 1800 GMT 9 May 91

[Text] Palestinian sources say no meeting has yet been scheduled between Soviet Foreign Minister Bessmertnykh and a delegation from the territories.

Our correspondent in the territories reports that Ghassan al-Khatib, the representative of the Communist Party, and the representative of Fatah sent an invitation to Bessmertnykh two days ago through the Soviet Consulate in Tel Aviv, asking him to visit East Jerusalem and meet with Palestinian notables from the territories.

Our correspondent adds that, contrary to the case with Baker, this time all the political elements in the territories support the meetings. However, because of a shortage of time, it is doubtful whether this meeting will actually take place.

Jerusalem 'Surprised' at Remarks

TA1005045491 Jerusalem Qol Yisra'el in Hebrew
0400 GMT 10 May 91

[Excerpts] Jerusalem is surprised by the Soviet foreign minister's remarks that the settlements are an obstacle to peace. Political sources have told our correspondent Arye Golan that the comments indicate Bessmertnykh is not familiar with the nuances. He would not have made those remarks had the Soviets maintained contacts with Israel at the appropriate level. Those are not the kind of remarks to make to the Israeli Government, the political sources noted. The sources also expressed their dismay with the brevity of Bessmertnykh's visit, especially in view of the fact that it is the first in more than 20 years.

Minister Sharon said last night at a Likud meeting in Tel Aviv that only 1 percent of the Soviet immigrants have settled in the territories. He again emphasized that the government does not settle new immigrants beyond the Green Line. Commenting on Bessmertnykh's remarks on aliyah, Minister Sharon told our correspondent Shlomo Raz that nothing, moral or otherwise, that has happened in Israel would justify restricting aliyah. Ari'el Sharon believes that Israel should not make any special gesture toward the USSR to make it renew diplomatic relations with us. [passage omitted]

People dealing with aliyah and absorption have said that Bessmertnykh's threats may have the opposite effect and may result in increased aliyah from the Soviet Union in the immediate future. They believe that the tens of thousands of Jews who hold exit visas to Israel who had so far deliberated on whether or not to go to Israel will now rush to do that, and it is necessary to prepare for an intensive absorption effort. This was reported to our correspondent Avraham Ben-Melekh.

Bessmertnykh Arrives at Airport

TA1005081991 Tel Aviv IDF Radio in Hebrew
0810 GMT 10 May 91

[Excerpt] Soviet Foreign Minister Aleksandr Bessmertnykh has arrived in Israel. The aircraft bearing the guest from Moscow landed at Ben-Gurion Airport a few minutes ago, coming from Amman. [passage omitted]

[Jerusalem Qol Yisra'el in Hebrew at 0800 GMT on 10 May reported that Israeli Foreign Minister David Levi had returned from Canada "a short while ago" and was waiting for Bessmertnykh at the airport.]

Makes Arrival Statement

TA1005084591 Jerusalem Qol Yisra'el in Hebrew
0818 GMT 10 May 91

[Statement by Soviet Foreign Minister Aleksandr Bessmertnykh at Ben-Gurion Airport—live, in Russian with passage-by-passage translation into English by Bessmertnykh's interpreter—processed from English]

[Text] With a feeling of great satisfaction, I am setting foot on this ancient land of Israel. This is the first visit of a Soviet foreign minister to this country over the entire history of the existence of the State of Israel.

Our arrival in Israel coincides with a very important period in international relations and also in the development of the Middle East situation. I think that the substance of this new phase is that we really have a chance to begin a peace settlement process and to achieve a settlement that will be satisfactory to all the nations and peoples of this region. This real chance is the result of the important changes that have occurred in the international situation and also of the more positive sentiment in the region itself, and we believe that this opportunity has to be used.

In this context, the Soviet Union, the United States, and other countries have begun to jointly develop a platform that would be a basis for unfolding a process of peaceful settlement. This work is focusing on the idea of holding a Middle East peace conference and I intend to discuss the various aspects of this with the leaders of Israel. And I assume the talks we're going to have here will be productive and useful, that they will make it possible for us not only to compare our positions but to see the similarities, to reveal the similarities and convergencies in our positions.

Also, this visit is, we believe, an important phase in the development of Soviet-Israeli relations, which over the past several years have been returning gradually to normal. And therefore I hope that the discussion of the bilateral Soviet-Israeli relationship will make it possible to move further ahead in our relations. Thank you.

Levi Speaks at Airport*TA1005091591 Tel Aviv IDF Radio in Hebrew
0822 GMT 10 May 91*

[Statement by Foreign Minister David Levi at Ben-Gurion Airport, following statement by Soviet Foreign Minister Bessmertnykh—live]

[Text] I would like to welcome the Soviet foreign minister. From here we will set out for Jerusalem, the city of peace. You have come to a country that considers peace its goal. We hope that this is now a historic opportunity to finally realize our dream of peace. Our hand has been outstretched in peace during all the years of our existence, but it was rejected. We hope that Israel's peace initiative, the only initiative ever proffered and upon which the entire edifice is built, will find attentive ears and outstretched palms, so that we can move toward peace.

Our two peoples have met throughout history at historic moments. This week marks the victory over Nazi Germany years ago and you are now being received in Eretz Yisra'el during these symbolic days. I welcome you as a friend!

We will openly discuss the issues and seek ways to permit this region to finally know peace. Five wars were forced on us, which we had to win, but after every war we yearned for peace. Our people are completely united in their ultimate hope for peace. I would like to laud the welcome improvement in our relations. I had the opportunity to hold a long and unforgettable conversation with your predecessor, Mr. Shevardnadze, which resulted in a good and promising development. I have no doubt that we will openly and candidly discuss the issues, and I hope we will lay the foundations for a new optimism in this region.

Sir, we are both new at being foreign ministers. I have had a bit more time at the job than you, albeit not much more. You have a wide and rich experience in foreign policy. We shall be united by the belief of the people and I believe that we shall be able to inspire such belief. Many eyes are turned to this meeting. Let us show them that we have come to talk peace between free people and free countries. If we were to look back on the past and consider the relations between our two countries, we can say that a lot has happened. Now is a new and encouraging time full of hope and I receive you with this hope. Welcome.

Shamir: USSR Peace Role Contingent on Ties*TA0905131991 Jerusalem Qol Yisra'el in Hebrew
1300 GMT 9 May 91*

[Text] Prime Minister Yitzhaq Shamir hopes to hear that diplomatic relations with the Soviet Union will be renewed immediately upon the arrival of the Soviet foreign minister, or a short time thereafter.

Mr. Shamir told our correspondent Ya'el Ayalon that the resumption of relations was a precondition for Soviet participation in the peace process. He pointed out that

Israel will ask Moscow to help as much as possible in furthering the peace process and influencing our neighbors.

Shamir was speaking at a luncheon in honor of representatives of the European Parliament. The prime minister asked his guests to assist in moving the peace process forward and to help Israel absorb immigrants.

'Concern' Voiced About Syrian-Soviet Arms Deal*TA0905174491 Jerusalem Qol Yisra'el in English
1700 GMT 9 May 91*

[Text] On the eve of Soviet Foreign Minister Bessmertnykh's visit, Israel has voiced concern about a reported new Soviet arms deal with Syria. A senior official in Jerusalem said that, if the report is true, it contradicts Moscow's claim to be anxious to contain the Middle East arms race. Jack Katzenell has more:

Speaking to reporters in Jerusalem, the senior official conceded that the Soviets had not supplied Syria with all the arms it requested in the past few years. The Soviets were not enthusiastic about President al-Asad's declared aim of achieving strategic parity with Israel. However, the reports that the Soviets were now negotiating a big new arms deal with Syria were causing concern in Israel. The official stressed that it was not yet certain that such a deal had been concluded, but if it was, he said, it is contradictory to the Soviet declarations that they are interested in the limitation of the arms race in the Middle East.

The official conceded that he had no definite evidence that the establishment of full diplomatic relations between Israel and the Soviet Union will be announced during or immediately after tomorrow's visit, but he stressed that it was a historic visit by any standard. Even before the rupture of diplomatic relations in 1967, Soviet foreign ministers did not visit Israel. They did visit the neighboring Arab countries but bypassed the Jewish state.

Official circles in Jerusalem say the two meetings which Bessmertnykh is holding tomorrow with Prime Minister Shamir and Foreign Minister Levi are really too short, bearing in mind that the parties will be speaking through interpreters. The bulk of both meetings will definitely be devoted to regional peace efforts, and only then will the parties be able to address bilateral issues.

In spite of reports to the contrary, official circles here say the key bilateral issues certainly do include the question of Soviet Jewish immigration and direct flights from Moscow to Israel.

Sharon Claims 4,500 Units Started in Territories*TA0905190191 Jerusalem Qol Yisra'el in English
1700 GMT 9 May 91*

[Excerpt] Housing Minister Ari'el Sharon says 4,500 apartments were begun in the territories in the 1990-91 fiscal year. The figure is far less than recent reports in the

press. Sharon made the disclosure at a meeting with the Knesset Finance Committee in Tel Aviv. Lea Zinder has the story:

Opposition members of the Finance Committee, especially Ran Kohen of the Citizens Rights Movement, plied Housing Minister Sharon with questions about the construction of housing in the territories. Sharon told the Finance Committee that since the beginning of last year building had begun on 4,500 housing units over the Green Line. On the housing for new immigrants, Sharon said, his ministry will be able to provide 111,000 housing units by March 1992. [passage omitted]

Rejects Linking Immigration, Settlements

TA0905194791 Tel Aviv IDF Radio in Hebrew
1930 GMT 9 May 91

[Text] Reacting to Soviet Foreign Minister Bessmertnykh's statement that Moscow is considering limiting the immigration of Soviet Jews as a means of stopping the settlements in the territories, Construction and Housing Minister Ari'el Sharon said that there was no room for linking the emigration of Jews with developments taking place in Israel.

Minister Sharon also revealed this evening that a new forum was set up in the cabinet which includes the prime minister, and the ministers of construction and housing, finance, and industry and trade. This forum will devote itself to creating employment for the new immigrants.

Broadcasting Agreement Signed With USSR

TA0905143591 Jerusalem Qol Yisra'el in Hebrew
1400 GMT 9 May 91

[Text] The first accord on cooperation between the broadcasting authorities of Israel and the USSR was signed in Moscow today. One of the agreements is that Qol Yisra'el correspondent Mikha'el Karpin will be based there permanently. The Soviets will also send a correspondent here within several months. The agreement was signed by Arye Meckel, Israel Broadcasting Authority director general, and Chairman Aharon Har'el, who were asked by the Soviets to get the broadcasting authority to supply the Soviets with television programs on life in Israel and achievements made here in agriculture, industry, medicine, as well as other fields. Under the accord, broadcasts from Israel to Soviet Jewry will be transmitted via a Soviet satellite, and there will be broadcasts from the Jewish communities in Moscow, Leningrad, and Kiev within an experimental framework.

Update on Incidents in Territories 7 May

TA0805134491 Tel Aviv HA'ARETZ in Hebrew
8 May 91 p A3

[By Yizhar Be'er, Eytan Rabin, and ITIM]

[Excerpts] The mukhtar of Rabba' in the northern part of the West Bank yesterday reported finding the bodies of two local villagers who had been murdered on suspicion of collaborating with the authorities. They were 47-year-old 'Abd-al-Karim al-Zir, a driver, and his 55-year-old wife Huriyya Najid Nazal, a school headmaster in Qabatiyah. They were abducted from their home, interrogated, and executed in a field in the center of the village. This brings the number of Palestinians murdered by other Palestinians in the last 48 hours to six.

Monday night, the security forces demolished the house of Nasir 'Imad Qasim 'Atiq, a resident of Buruqin in the Janin District. He had confessed to murdering a local villager and participating in the murder of another, both on suspicion that they had collaborated with the authorities. The house owners appealed to the High Court of Justice, but their appeal was rejected.

In Janin, the security forces sealed up the house of Yasir Amin Musa Hamad, who confessed to attacking local residents whom he suspected of collaborating with the authorities. He had also taken part in an attack on soldiers during a riot. The appeal of the owners had also been rejected by the High Court of Justice.

Palestinian sources reported that 15-year-old Jawad Suwasta was injured in Tubas yesterday by soldiers' gunfire. He was hit in the chest, and hospitalized in moderate condition in al-Ittihad Hospital in Nabulus.

An ABC camerawoman was slightly injured yesterday when a settler from Hebron threw a stone at her as she was filming. [passage omitted]

Relative quiet prevailed in the Gaza Strip yesterday, except for isolated stonethrowing incidents in the refugee camps. Palestinian sources said clashes had occurred mainly in the Jabalyah, Khan Yunus, al-Shati', and Rafah refugee camps. According to these sources, two locals were injured and hospitalized. An Army spokesman for the Southern Command said the area had been quiet, nobody had been hurt, and all curfews had been lifted. [passage omitted]

[A pool report on page 12 of Tel Aviv YEDI'OT AHA-RONOT in Hebrew on 8 May adds that "an Israeli oil tanker driver was hit in the head by a stone thrown at him as he was driving through East Jerusalem's Ra's al-'Amud neighborhood. Masked men surrounded the tanker and pelted it with a barrage of stones."

["In the Janin refugee camp, Army troops arrested seven people suspected of engaging in hostile activities. In Nazlat 'Isa, eight suspects were arrested during an initiated operation."

[Calling him "a human beast," the military court in Gaza sentenced 18-year-old Ramzi Ahmad 'Ali Tayin from Rafah to "five consecutive life sentences and 30 years imprisonment after being convicted of murdering five local Arabs."]

Soviet Foreign Minister in Amman for Talks**Arrival, Statement Reported**

*JN0905125991 Amman Domestic Service in English
1100 GMT 9 May 91*

[Text] Soviet Foreign Minister Aleksandr Bessmertnykh arrived in Amman today on a two-day visit to Jordan for talks with senior officials on means for an Arab-Israeli peace settlement. He was received at the airport by Foreign Minister Tahir al-Masri and other ministry officials as well as the Jordanian ambassador in Moscow and Soviet ambassador in Amman.

Bessmertnykh is accompanied by a delegation made up of senior officials at the Soviet Foreign Ministry. The Soviet guest was due to hold talks with his Jordanian counterpart before having a working lunch with his majesty the king.

The Soviet foreign minister told our reporter 'Ali Hamati that the Soviet Union and the United States are cooperating closely in order to arrange a peace conference on the Middle East.

[Begin recording] [Unidentified reporter] Israel has put conditions for the participation of the Soviet Union in the sponsorship of a peace conference. Will you meet these conditions?

[Bessmertnykh] No, we do not accept any conditions, especially preconditions for our participation in the peace process in the Middle East. Our role in this process is natural enough. So we have flatly stated that the two issues are not actually connected—I mean the role of the Soviet Union and the reconstitution of the diplomatic relationship between the Soviet Union and Israel. As to the Soviet-Israeli relationship, it may come on its own when the conditions are ripe for that.

[Hamati] Mr. Bessmertnykh, what is your assessment of the U.S. efforts to solve the Middle East problem right now?

[Bessmertnykh] Well, we are doing this together, and that is why this role is positive. And we have been doing this since January when you may remember that we issued—that is Secretary Baker and myself—a joint statement on the Middle East settlement. And since then we were in very intensive kind of cooperation between the two of us on the possible arrangement for the start of the peace process. And I must say that I would like to emphasize the personal role of Secretary Baker, who has been here three times already, and I'm only on the first time; but I believe that the two of us, the Soviet Union and the United States, might do something positive to help the participants to start their own peaceful process. This is our mission: to help and to arrange conditions for that; but it is up to the participants themselves to solve the problems that divide them.

[Unidentified reporter] [Words indistinct] you see Jordan's role in the [words indistinct]?

[Bessmertnykh] Which role, which role?

[Hamati] Jordan.

[Bessmertnykh] Jordan, yes. I came to Jordan first of all because I believe that Jordan may play a very constructive and crucial role in that because of its peculiar position in the area, being the country on the crossroads of the problems and sometimes of conflicting interests, and also just because Jordan has always tried to invest positive efforts into finding a just solution for the Middle East problem. So I believe that the discussions I am going to have with the Jordanians may help to push the whole process to the peace conference we are discussing now.

[Hamati] [Words indistinct] meet with Mr. 'Arafat?

[Bessmertnykh] We have been in touch with 'Arafat and his people and I have been preparing to see him, actually, for some time; but somehow it did not materialize because of some physical problems, not so much for political problems. [end recording]

Al-Masri, Bessmertnykh Talks

*JN0905135391 Amman Domestic Service in Arabic
1300 GMT 9 May 91*

[Text] Foreign Minister Tahir al-Masri and Soviet Foreign Minister Aleksandr Bessmertnykh held talks at the Foreign Ministry at noon today. During the talks, they reviewed efforts already under way for attaining a peaceful settlement of the Arab-Israeli conflict, advancing the Palestinian cause, and defining the role the Soviet Union can play to push these efforts forward.

The talks also dealt with the various aspects of the two nation's positive bilateral relations and ways to promote them.

The two sides exchanged views on several topics concerning regional peace efforts, including the peace conference and the question of the establishment of Israeli settlements in the occupied territories. The two sides affirmed the two countries' identical views on the need to implement international legitimacy and UN Security Council Resolutions 242 and 338, to halt Israeli settlements, and to have the parties concerned participate and sponsor a peace conference. The two sides agreed that the present time provides an appropriate opportunity to exert real efforts for a peaceful settlement of regional issues and to attain positive results. They also agreed that all parties should demonstrate the flexibility necessary to push the peace process ahead.

The Soviet foreign minister stressed the importance of Jordan's role in the peace process in view of its unique location and its positive position on the peace equation. He added that Jordan is a fundamental partner in Middle East affairs.

Reviewing the role the USSR could play in advancing the Middle East peace process, the Jordanian and Soviet

index emphasized the importance of this role now and in the future based on previous Soviet relations and positions on Arab causes.

On the Jordanian side, the talks were attended by the Foreign Ministry secretary general, the director of the Foreign Ministry's Political Department, and the Jordanian ambassador in Moscow. On the Soviet side, the talks were attended by the members of the delegation and the Soviet ambassador in Amman.

King, Bessmertnykh Talks

JN0905160091 Amman Domestic Service in Arabic
1500 GMT 9 May 91

[Text] His Majesty King Husayn received Soviet Foreign Minister Aleksandr Bessmertnykh at the Raghadan Palace this afternoon.

During the meeting, they reviewed the peace process in the Middle East and bilateral ties.

The meeting was attended on the Jordanian side by Crown Prince Hasan; Prime Minister Mudar Badran; al-Sharif Zayd Bin-Shakir, chief of the Royal Hashemite Court; Adnan Abu-'Awdah, political adviser to his majesty the king; Prince Talal Bin-Muhammad, the king's military secretary; Foreign Minister Tahir al-Masri; and Muhammad 'Affash al-Adwan, Jordanian ambassador in Moscow.

For the Soviet Union, the meeting was attended by the Soviet ambassador in Amman, the chief of the Information Department of the Foreign Ministry, the chief of the Near Eastern and North African Department at the ministry, and his deputy.

His Majesty King Husayn hosted a lunch banquet in honor of the guest minister. The banquet was attended by members of the Jordanian and Soviet sides.

At the conclusion of the talks, His Majesty King Husayn spoke to reporters. He described the talks the Jordanian and Soviet sides held as extensive and in-depth. He added that the talks dealt with the opportunities provided by these moments in the history of the region and the world for the attainment of progress to achieve a comprehensive peace in this region. His majesty the king went on to say: We are optimistic. Similarly, we are determined to work strongly to attain a common and cherished objective.

For his part, the Soviet foreign minister expressed his thanks to His Majesty King Husayn for granting him this opportunity for discussing a host of current major topics. He added: We focused on the means to guarantee a peaceful settlement of the Middle East situation. In addition, our talks dealt with enhancing ties between Jordan and the USSR. We in Moscow believe that Jordan is one of the states that can play a crucial role in the peace process, considering the fact that it is at the crossroads of regional issues and interests. His Majesty King Husayn's opinions are important to all of us and

also to all those who are attempting to lay a foundation that could help all parties to start a process that would lead to solving their problems.

King, Bessmertnykh News Conference

JN0905171491 Amman Domestic Service in English
1600 GMT 9 May 91

["Full recording" of joint news conference by King Husayn and Soviet Foreign Minister Aleksandr Bessmertnykh in Amman on 9 May—all reporters unidentified]

[Text] [Husayn] I would like, on behalf of the government and people of Jordan, for myself to say how happy we are to welcome a dear friend and his colleagues on this visit to Jordan. We have had extremely extensive talks and talks in depth regarding the opportunities that this moment in the history of this region presents, and this moment in the life of the world for progress towards the establishment of a comprehensive peace in this region. And we are proud of our friendship and our relations. We are optimistic and we are determined to work closely together to achieve a dear and a common objective. Once again, sir, you are most welcome.

[Bessmertnykh] Thank you very much. And I would like to thank very much his majesty for this opportunity to discuss the major issues of today. We have concentrated on the problems of finding the way to the peaceful settlement of the situation in the Middle East. We have also had a chance to—although briefly—to talk about the relationship between the Soviet Union and Jordan. We believe in Moscow that Jordan is one of those countries that is playing a crucial role in the peaceful process. It is also the country that is located at the crossroads of the problems and interests of the area. So, the views of his majesty are very much important to all of us, to those who are trying to find and to formulate a platform on which we could help the countries of the area to get the way to solve the issues. I am happy to have this opportunity to talk with his majesty and with his minister for foreign affairs. And I think those talks were very useful, at least to me. We have agreed that Jordan and the Soviet Union are going to be in more intensive contact as far as the prevailing issues of modern policies are concerned. So we would like to thank you very much. Thank you.

[Husayn] Thank you.

[Reporter] Your Majesty, how do you assess the possibility for a peace conference?

[Husayn] I believe the possibilities are there and the opportunity is there. And I hope that it will be taken by all. And I believe that this is a moment in history where hopefully everyone will realize what responsibility we have towards future generations in this region and in the world. And we'll be forthcoming as a result.

[Reporter] Your Majesty, what do you [word indistinct] problems [word indistinct] talks before such a conference would be convened in your opinion?

[Husayn] We are only a party to the process that is ongoing through the efforts of friends throughout the world. And we have all the interests and commitment to the cause of peace. And I believe that the process is ongoing in trying to define how we proceed from here. But I am encouraged by all I have heard and all I have partaken in in the recent past that there is an area of understanding. And I think much ground has been covered. And, indeed, the visit of our dear friend today is just an indication of how much the world is concerned with the peace process in this region and the need to initiate it and not to close this window of opportunity that may never come again. Without a doubt, this is the time to move and we will do everything we can to achieve our goals and objectives. I cannot go into much detail, and I believe that there is a realization amongst all concerned that not everything has to be put out, otherwise we create more problems than we solve. Thank you very much.

[Reporter] What could be the specific role of Jordan in the peace conference if it takes place?

[Husayn] Well, as you know, Jordan is probably more deeply involved in this problem than any by virtue of its history, its commitment, its location, the responsibilities that it has shouldered throughout the years when this crisis has been at its most critical and most difficult in terms of its impact on the region and on human beings everywhere. So, that is where we are, and I believe that, probably, it will be a question that will be answered in the times ahead as to what role can we play. First of all, if you take the Arab-Israeli dimension of the problem, the Palestinian-Israeli dimension of the problem, we are the opposite side to everything that's happened in the sense that we are the recipients of all the results we feel and are living through, all the difficulties, all the challenges, all the human sufferings, all the threat, not to ourselves and the region alone but to the world if the situation is not resolved, and we are totally committed to the cause of a just and durable peace. So, hopefully, we will be able to play a constructive and positive role in bringing it about.

[Reporter] What action is the Soviet Union planning to take to stop Israel from continuing building Jewish settlements in the occupied territories?

[Bessmertnykh] I believe that this is one of the major issues to be solved. I just can't foresee, or conceive, and I can't accept a situation when a peace conference is in session while the settlements are going to be built. So, this is a question to be solved and the Soviet Union is, as well as other countries, quite interested in arranging that conference. We are going to deal with that problem straightforwardly, I mean directly, as long as there are things to be solved before the conference starts.

[Reporter] Thank you very much.

[Reporter] Some kinds of restrictions on emigration?

[Bessmertnykh] The emigration is a problem that may create some concerns in the countries round the area. We realize that. But we also like to be understood that what is happening is in no way a reflection on our attitude toward the settlement in the Middle East, or toward the countries who may be affected by those things. But, I do not exclude anything when we talk about the necessity to stop the construction of the settlements on the occupied territories.

[Reporter] [Words indistinct] outcome of the negotiations?

[Husayn] I am extremely satisfied. They are not negotiations. They are talks among friends, and extensive ones at that, and I think we see eye to eye on almost everything.

[Reporter] [Words indistinct] country on the peace process and this question is for Your Majesty and his excellency: Has there been any differences, is there agreement?

[Husayn] I don't believe there are any basic differences. I think we have a very good understanding of each other's position, and I am very, very satisfied with the good results of our talks, and we will continue them in the future, next summer.

[Bessmertnykh] I completely share this view.

Soviet Foreign Minister Departs

JN1005071391 Amman Domestic Service in Arabic
0700 GMT 10 May 91

[Text] Soviet Foreign Minister Aleksandr Bessmertnykh left Amman this morning at the conclusion of a two-day visit to Jordan, during which he met with His Majesty King Husayn and reviewed the Middle East peace process and bilateral ties. He also held talks with Foreign Minister Tahir al-Masri on efforts to achieve a peaceful settlement of the Arab-Israeli conflict and the Palestine question, and on relations between the two countries. He was seen off at the airport by Foreign Minister Tahir al-Masri, the Foreign Ministry's director general, the Jordanian ambassador in Moscow, the Soviet ambassador in Amman, and senior Foreign Ministry officials.

Editorial Views Visit

JN1005082691 Amman AL-DUSTUR in Arabic
10 May 91 p 1

[Editorial: "Jordan in the Soviet Mirror"]

[Text] Soviet Foreign Minister Aleksandr Bessmertnykh's current visit to Jordan is another important stop on his tour of the region, and a distinguished mark in the extensive diplomatic efforts to advance the Middle East peace process.

The Soviet minister realizes the importance of his visit to Jordan. He said upon arriving yesterday that Jordan plays a constructive, decisive role in the peace process, because of its location at the crossroads of the region's

problems, and because of its serious, nonstop diplomatic efforts to bring about a just solution to the issue.

This positive assessment of Jordan's position and potential role in the achievement of the peaceful settlement is a tribute in which Jordan takes great pride, not only because it entails a deep appreciation of Jordan's role and positive contributions, but also because it comes at a time when some parties are trying to deny this role or underestimate Jordan's diplomatic efforts after the Gulf war.

Because Jordan and the Soviet Union adhere to principles, it was natural for the two countries to have identical views on many aspects of the current situation. The two countries agree on the need to apply international legitimacy, implement Security Council Resolutions 242 and 338, and end Israeli settlement. They also agree that the concerned parties should participate in a peace conference under suitable international auspices.

On the basis of this broad identity of views between Amman and Moscow, it was only logical for the two sides to agree that there exists a current opportunity for genuine efforts to achieve a peaceful settlement of the region's issues, provided that all parties show the necessary flexibility to promote the faltering peace process in the region.

As a basic party in Middle East affairs, Jordan will be very pleased to see the Soviet Union playing an effective role in international efforts aimed at breaking the deadlock in the region. It will be even more pleased to see Moscow stand firmly against Israel's attempts to blackmail the Soviet Union into restoring its broken diplomatic relations with Tel Aviv as a price for its participation in the proposed peace conference.

As we watch the Soviet diplomatic performance in the region with keen interest, we are more confident than before in the position of this big friend of the Arabs, and more reassured about the soundness of the current Soviet approach to many aspects of the crisis, especially

since this complements the intensive U.S. efforts to convene the proposed peace conference on the basis of world legitimacy and the Security Council resolutions.

Comprehensive Cabinet Change Slated 'Shortly'

TA0805143091 Jerusalem AL-MANAR in Arabic
6 May 91 pp 1, 15

[Text] A comprehensive cabinet change is to be announced shortly in Jordan due to developments stemming from the Gulf war and the liberation of Kuwait. Informed Jordanian sources have said that Prime Minister Mudar Badran submitted his government's resignation to King Husayn during Ramadan, but that the monarch had asked him to postpone the resignation until after 'Id al-Fitr. It has been learned that King Husayn will entrust a moderate Jordanian figure with the task of forming the new government, without taking into consideration the influence of the National Assembly.

The sources believe that the next government will be a transitional government that will bear great responsibility in light of the consequences of the Gulf war.

It has also been learned that one of the most likely people for the post of prime minister is al-Sharif Zayd Bin-Shakir, the current Royal Court chief, who is close to both Riyadh and Damascus. Another name mentioned for this post is former Prime Minister Zayd al-Rifa'i, who was toppled by the so-called "intifadah of April 1989." The last name on the list is that of Ahmad 'Ubaydat, who recently chaired the committee for formulating the Jordanian national covenant.

It is common knowledge that Mudar Badran is close to the Iraqi regime and unacceptable to the Syrian regime. During Badran's term in office, the Syrian-Jordanian joint committee has convened only once since 1985.

Political circles say that Jordan is going to make large changes in the parliamentary, diplomatic, and media fields.

Terry Waite Said To Be Released in 48 Hours

NC1005092591 (Clandestine) Voice of the Mountain
in Arabic to Lebanon 0912 GMT 10 May 91

[Text] Citing informed sources, the newspaper AL-LIWA' said today that the release of British hostage Bishop [title as heard] Terry Waite is expected in the next 48 hours. The sources said that contacts with the concerned capitals produced an agreement on this issue. They also pointed out that there is a possibility that Shaykh 'Abd-al-Karim 'Ubayd [detained in Israel] might be released as an initial step toward resolving the Western hostage issue and the issue of the Lebanese and Palestinian detainees in Israeli prisons.

Buwayz Comments on Militias, Domestic Issues

PM1005101191 London SAWT AL-KUWAYT
AL-DUWALI in Arabic 8 May 91 p 3

[Unattributed interview with Foreign Minister Faris Buwayz in Beirut; date not given]

[Excerpts][SAWT AL-KUWAYT] The Lebanese Council of Ministers has set a date for handing over the militias' arms. Does that mean that the decision to totally disband the militias will coincide with that deadline?

[Buwayz] We should not dwell on the details of the deadlines given to the militias to hand over their arms to the state, but rather should note the acceptance of the principle of handing over the arms. This is in the knowledge that the deadlines given are political deadlines. And no war will break out if there is a delay of one or two days or even one week, provided that any delay is purely for technical reasons. [passage omitted]

[SAWT AL-KUWAYT] The ministerial decision included the provision that arms should be handed over by all the militias, which means that it applies to the non-Lebanese militias as well, especially the Palestinian militias. What has been achieved in current negotiations vis-a-vis the Palestinians' handing over of their arms?

[Buwayz] The ministerial decision is comprehensive so as not to exempt any of the Lebanese and non-Lebanese militias from the need to hand over their arms to the state, in accordance with the principle that says: "Whoever equated you with himself has not wronged you." So the ministerial decision does not represent a prejudice toward the Palestinian militias or their arms.

And that is the center of discussion in the current negotiations with the Palestinians groups. The negotiations have reached advanced levels which we hope will produce good results. [passage omitted]

[SAWT AL-KUWAYT] What have you been informed about the possibility of implementing Resolution 425, especially as the Americans pledged to implement the Security Council resolution after the Gulf crisis is over?

[Buwayz] One cannot exaggerate out of optimism and claim that the implementation of Resolution 425 is imminent, especially as the Israelis are clinging to the excuse that the Lebanese Army should guarantee security for their northern borders—something the Israeli Army itself has been able to realize. So it is an Israeli excuse designed to obstruct the realization of withdrawal in accordance with Resolution 425. Besides, U.S. talk about the possibility of implementing that resolution did not reach the point of a definite promise or pressure on Israel to realize it. At any rate, the Lebanese State continues to believe in the need to implement Resolution 425 to extend its authority over all Lebanese territory.

[SAWT AL-KUWAYT] Where does Lebanon fit in the international or regional conference expected to be held to examine the Middle East issue?

[Buwayz] Undoubtedly Lebanon is concerned with that matter, whether with regard to the Lebanese territory occupied by Israel or with regard to discussing the Palestinian issue, which we believe we must participate in discussing, especially as the solutions that may be proposed affect Lebanon in view of the fact that it is one of the states in which Palestinians reside. [passage omitted]

[SAWT AL-KUWAYT] To what extent can the ups and downs of Syrian-U.S. relations affect internal conditions in Lebanon?

[Buwayz] It has been proved to all that Syria is the key to the solution in the Arab region, just as Egypt is the key to war. And after what has happened to Arab power, especially Egypt and Iraq, Syria is now the basis of any equilibrium the Arab region may witness. The Americans realize that, and Syria is the only one that can offer peace to the United States and Israel. And the United States is the only one that can offer peace to Syria, after the decline of Soviet influence. So the two states are governed by agreement—which is bound to produce positive results at the Lebanese level. [passage omitted]

Information Minister Comments on Cabinet Meeting

NC0905093191 Beirut Domestic Service in Arabic
0430 GMT 9 May 91

[Statement by Information Minister Albert Mansur following a cabinet meeting in Beirut on 8 May—recorded]

[Excerpt] At the outset of the meeting, his excellency the president discussed the general situation in the country in light of the achievements scored during the last few months in implementation of the (National accord) document. These achievements have been positively received by Arab and international circles, most recently in a statement issued by the Gulf Cooperation Council, which praised the Lebanese Government's efforts to establish its authority over Lebanese territory and to restore security, stability, and peace and emphasized the need to implement UN Security Council Resolution 425

and support the establishment of an Arab-international fund for Lebanon's development.

On this occasion, their excellencies the president and the prime minister underlined the great national role being played by the Chamber of Deputies to achieve national accord and consolidate democratic life in Lebanon, especially during all the critical and fateful moments the country has experienced. The chamber adopted courageous national stands that truly expressed the desire of all Lebanese to attain salvation, as the government had earlier emphasized in its policy statement.

While confirming its unchanging position toward the honorable Chamber of Deputies, the government recalls the major achievements it accomplished in implementation of the program it outlined in its policy statement, on the basis of which it won a vote of confidence. The most important achievements have been the realization of national reconciliation, the disbanding of the militias, the collection of weapons, the deployment of the Lebanese Army, and the Army's dispatch to the south. These achievements would never have been realized without constant and fruitful cooperation between the Chamber of Deputies and the government. This cooperation will continue to serve the public interest and complete the process of salvation and peace.

His excellency the prime minister then discussed the issue of the strikes. He informed the cabinet that the bank strike has ended and that tomorrow's scheduled strike by the General Trade Union Federation has been called off. We were also informed during the meeting that the government school teachers bureau will hold a general assembly tomorrow to discuss whether to call off its strike.

On this occasion, the cabinet emphasizes that it has fully responded to all just demands and, therefore, there is no need to resort to such negative measures. The cabinet hopes that everyone will understand the state's situation. The cabinet considers all just demands as quickly as possible. With regard to the other employees and the university teachers, the committee charged with studying grade and wage scales will meet on Friday.

The cabinet then reviewed the topics on the agenda. It approved the adoption of various measures, particularly the bill on the establishment of a transport ministry and the bill abolishing the special corps [al-silk al-khas] in the Ministries of Information and Tourism. It also approved the formation of a delegation under the foreign minister to attend the Arab League meeting in fraternal Egypt. [passage omitted]

Parliament Passes Law To Appoint New Deputies

NC0905173891 Beirut Voice of Lebanon in Arabic
1615 GMT 9 May 91

[Excerpt] The Chamber of Deputies today approved a draft law amending the parliamentary elections law. The

draft law allows 40 deputies to be appointed, for one time only, to fill the vacant and newly created deputy seats.

The current chamber, with only 67 deputies, was elected in 1972. The Lebanese war prevented the holding of elections and the chamber has renewed its mandate since then.

Today's session was attended by 48 deputies. The draft law was approved by a majority of 36 votes. [passage omitted]

Reactivating State Institutions in South Discussed

NC1005070691 Beirut Domestic Service in Arabic
0430 GMT 10 May 91

[Text] General Lars-Eric Malcolm Wahlgren, commander of the United Nations Interim Force in Lebanon [UNIFIL], Governor of the South Halim Fayyad, and UNIFIL liaison commander Colonel Young met yesterday at the UNIFIL logistics headquarters in Tyre. They discussed coordination among the UNIFIL forces, the internal security forces, and the governor of the South in his capacity as representative of the government and administrative departments, to reactivate the role of the state's institutions, such as the police and official departments, in the areas where UNIFIL is operating.

French Envoy Urges Resolution of South Issue

NC1005070291 Beirut Domestic Service in Arabic
0430 GMT 10 May 91

[Text] During his visit to Sidon yesterday, French Ambassador to Lebanon Rene Ala warned that Lebanon will remain in danger if the issue of the south is not resolved. He said that this issue must be resolved very quickly. He denied that French-Lebanese contacts are now being held about General Michel 'Awn. He revealed that this issue was raised during the French and Egyptian foreign ministers' meeting. However, he emphasized that the solution to this issue lies with the Lebanese Government.

Discusses South With Palestinians

NC1005071591 Beirut Voice of Lebanon in Arabic
0515 GMT 10 May 91

[Text] French Ambassador Rene Ala met with a Palestinian delegation led by Zayd Wahbah [Fatah representative in Lebanon] in Sidon yesterday. It was the first meeting of this kind since Ala assumed his post in Beirut in 1988. Ala and Wahbah discussed ways to implement UN Security Council Resolution 425 and the U.S. and Israeli stands on this resolution.

Citing a Palestinian source, the newspaper L'ORIENT LE JOUR reported that Wahbah said PLO weapons must be used as a form of pressure to implement Resolution 425.

SLA, Islamic, Leftist Groups Fighting in South

NC1005052291 (Clandestine) Radio Free Lebanon
in Arabic 0445 GMT 10 May 91

[Text] Violent clashes between South Lebanese Army [SLA] units and Islamic and leftist armed groups lasted for five hours on the Lib'a, 'Ayn al-Mir, and Kafr Falus combat lines last night. Machine guns, rockets, and artillery were used in the fighting. Some mortar and tank artillery shells fell in areas far from the combat lines.

Israeli Combat Planes Overfly Mountain

NC1005091291 (Clandestine) Radio Free Lebanon
in Arabic 0845 GMT 10 May 91

[Text] Israeli combat aircraft overflew the mountain area about one hour ago.

Hizballah Radio on 'Forced' Lahd Recruitment

NC0905062791 (Clandestine) Voice of the Oppressed
in Arabic to Lebanon 0530 GMT 9 May 91

[Text] The Israeli occupation authorities and their agents continue their oppressive measures against the sons of the south. Zionist enemy troops forced 35 young men from Bint Jubayl to join agent Lahd's army, threatening that they would be killed and their homes destroyed if they refused. This is part of the recently launched forced recruitment campaign.

According to security reports from the south, agent Lahd's militiamen have stepped up their oppressive measures in the central sector, particularly the towns of al-Tayyibah, al-'Ubaysi, and Kafr Kila. Mobile road-blocks have been set up to check citizens' identity papers and public gatherings have been dispersed.

Islamic Amal Leader Denounces U.S. Policy

NC1005101691 (Clandestine) Voice of the Oppressed
in Arabic to Lebanon 0530 GMT 10 May 91

[Text] Islamic Amal Movement leader Husayn al-Musawi has affirmed that no sane person can expect a genuine and just solution to the Middle East or Lebanese problems as long as the United States maintains its hegemony, Israel exists, and Saddam, political Maronism, and Arab hypocrites are meticulously implementing the plans of arrogance and Zionism.

Al-Musawi said that the United States is leading a religious, political, and economic war against Islam and the oppressed. It planned the Gulf war, the butchering of the Kurds, and the displacement of the rest of the Iraqis. It also wants the oil in northern Iraq, fears Islamic fundamentalism in southern Iraq, wants to keep Saddam in power, and pushes toward a new conflict with the Islamic Republic. He noted that the United States sparks and administers conflicts and makes false statements. The Israelis are continuing to expand and obliterate Palestine.

The Islamic Amal Movement leader said: We are called upon to support the alliance between the Islamic Republic and Syria and to cooperate in the establishment of an Islamic security system and the Islamic common market. We are also called upon to equip ourselves for a war society that can triumph in the battle that is imposed on us. We must not forget to care for our relatives and the poor and be fair to the teachers and all people who are treated unjustly. We also must not forget to prevent internal strife and resolve differences justly. All of this is the moral and social basis of our sacred struggle.

Al-Shar', Bessmertnykh Comment on Talks

JN0905121991 Damascus Domestic Service in Arabic
1115 GMT 9 May 91

[Text] Soviet Foreign Minister Aleksandr Bessmertnykh and his delegation left Damascus this morning at the conclusion of a two-day visit to Syria. During the visit Bessmertnykh met with President Hafiz al-Asad and held talks with Foreign Minister Faruq al-Shar'. Bessmertnykh was seen off at Damascus International Airport by Foreign Minister al-Shar'; the heads of the Foreign Ministry's East Europe, protocol, and information departments; and the Soviet ambassador in Damascus and embassy staff members.

Al-Shar' and Bessmertnykh answered questions from journalists. Concerning the outcome of his visit to Syria, the Soviet minister said: We are happy with the meeting and with last night's talks with President Hafiz al-Asad, which centered on the Middle East issue and ways and means of solving it. Our viewpoints were largely identical. We also discussed issues relating to an international conference to resolve the Middle East issue.

He said in-depth talks were held, and they were characterized by a spirit of frankness and friendship. We agreed to continue to exchange views on the next steps toward a solution, he added.

Answering another question, Mr. Bessmertnykh said: We also discussed bilateral relations and ways to promote them in all fields. Our talks regarding this issue were very useful.

Asked about his assessment of the outcome of Mr. Bessmertnykh's talks, Mr. al-Shar' said: I can say that the minister held positive and very constructive talks last night with President Hafiz al-Asad. The atmosphere of the talks was extremely cordial and viewpoints about the peace process, especially the structure of the peace conference, the participation of the United Nations, and the continuity of the conference, were identical.

He stressed the importance of this visit because the Soviet Union and the United States shoulder an important responsibility to push the peace process forward and to hold a peace conference to implement Security Council Resolutions 242 and 338.

Concerning the date of the conference, Mr. al-Shar' said: This is linked to the moment when the Israeli Government removes the obstacles it is placing in the way of the peace conference.

Concerning Palestinian representation at the conference, Mr. al-Shar' said the Palestinians must take part in it. We in Syria believe, he added, that Palestinian representation can be either through the PLO or through representatives chosen by the Palestinians in free, UN-supervised elections.

Answering a question about the mechanism of peace in the Middle East and the Soviet concept of this mechanism, Mr. Bessmertnykh said that the mechanism we are concerned about now centers on a peace conference in the Middle East. He added: We consider this very important in launching the peace process. He said discussions so far about the mechanism of this conference, the parties that may attend, and the shape of its future mission. [sentence as heard] He said that this stage is an active one.

Mr. Bessmertnykh said there are a number of problems and obstacles yet to be solved, as Mr. al-Shar' said. There are still difficulties concerning the conference, and I think the process of overcoming these difficulties is something good that will provide an opportunity to start the peace process.

Asked to pinpoint these difficulties, Mr. Bessmertnykh said: I have not found many obstacles in Damascus at the outset of my tour. Answering another question on joint Soviet-U.S. efforts to advance the peace process and deal with the Israeli stance, Bessmertnykh replied: I have to say that if the conditions set for the peace conference are not accepted by any party to the conference, then the conference will not see the light of day. Therefore, the mission for all of us is to set the peace process in motion and to devise a formula accepted by everybody in Syria, Jordan, Egypt, the Palestinians, as well as the Israelis. However, if any of the parties attempt to put forward preconditions to this conference which are unacceptable to the rest of the parties, then there will be no conference.

Mr. Bessmertnykh added: I do not believe that pressure should be put on any party to talk it into accepting any plan that contravenes its national interests.

On his meeting with Mr. Baker in Cairo, Mr. Bessmertnykh said: I believe that both of us are doing our best to work with all the parties to the conference in an attempt to have a better understanding of the various positions, because it is up to them to hold the conference. So, it is up to the Arabs, the Palestinians, and the Israelis to hold the conference. Our mission is to implement and devise a formula to help them convene this conference, and this is what we are doing. Mr. Bessmertnykh added: As a matter of fact, we are now in the region, and this in itself is a practical step. However, this is not the only way to deal with the conference. We are in touch with all parties, even when we are away from the region. For instance, my colleague Mr. al-Shar' and I exchange letters and meetings. This is also the case with the rest of the parties. However, we are taking practical steps to come up with a practical concept.

Asked about Soviet President Gorbachev's statement that the final status of the Palestinians should be in an independent state, and asked what he thinks should be done to achieve this and who will represent the Palestinians at the peace conference, Mr. Bessmertnykh replied: The Palestine question is the core of the problem, and

this is what we are discussing to begin with. The first thing to be considered when discussing the Palestine question is that the Palestinians themselves should do this. We have been in touch with the Palestinians in Moscow, Tunis, and elsewhere. I believe it is up to them to decide on the form of their participation in the conference.

On an agreement regarding Palestinian representation, Mr. Bessmertnykh said: Yes, I believe that Mr. al-Shar' presented several options concerning this topic.

Asked if one of the results of the meeting with Mr. Bessmertnykh was that Syria would have an active role in the peace conference and in preparing for the conference if it were held, Mr. al-Shar' said: We in Syria are ready to offer what help we can to attain this objective. Of course, the conference is not an end in itself. Instead, it is a framework to enable the parties to reach a practical result on the peace process. This result should particularly depend on the implementation of Resolutions No. 242 and 338, which call for Israeli withdrawal from the occupied Arab territories and guaranteeing the national rights of the Palestinian people. This means exchanging land for peace, and the nonacquisition of others' territory by force. Mr. al-Shar' asserted that these elements must be taken into consideration at any peace process. These elements, therefore, should be addressed at a peace conference in which the USSR, the United States, the European Community, and the United Nations play an important role to achieve this end.

Asked if there were any discussions about a defense agreement or cooperation in this area with the USSR, Mr. al-Shar' said: When the Syrians and the Soviets meet, they discuss the relations of friendship and cooperation between them.

Asked if he favors a role by the United Nations and Europe in the peace conference, Mr. Bessmertnykh replied: Yes, I believe the peace conference should include the United Nations and Europe, which is something we are all discussing at the moment.

Asked about the venue of the conference, Mr. al-Shar' answered: This will be agreed upon among all the parties. However, I believe this question has not been raised yet, because we are still discussing the structure of the conference.

Mr. Bessmertnykh arrived in Amman on a 24-hour visit to Jordan. The Soviet minister will discuss with Jordanian officials the present efforts to reach a peaceful solution to the Arab-Israeli conflict and the role of the USSR in the probable peace process, in addition to bilateral relations.

Lebanon 'Incomplete' Without Liberation of South

JN1005090491 Damascus SANA in Arabic 0720 GMT 10 May 91

[Text] Damascus, 10 May (SANA)—In a commentary today, AL-THAWRAH says a new era of national accord

based on the al-Ta'if agreement has been launched in Lebanon with the removal of the features of division and fragmentation through the dissolution of militias, collection of weapons, deployment of the Army, and establishment of the legitimate authority and the rule of law over large areas in the country.

This new era, the paper adds, embodies the national solution and responds to the legitimate hopes and aspirations of the Lebanese people in ending the crisis. All sincere groups and national forces in the country, therefore, should work to entrench and perpetuate this era, because Lebanon's security and entire fate lie in its continuation and enhancement.

Concluding, AL-THAWRAH says that there is a growing need to embody national unity, reconciliation, unified decisionmaking, and legitimate authority. All Lebanese brothers will realize that after boosting the march of reconciliation and security, the urgent task is to liberate the South through implementing Resolution 425. Without realizing this step, adds the paper, Lebanon's independence and sovereignty remain incomplete, and Lebanon and all its achievements toward ending its crisis will remain subject to unlimited threats and perils. A complete end to the Lebanese crisis starts with reconciliation, but ends only after the liberation of the South.

Writer on Lebanese Determination To Rebuild

JN0905165491 Damascus TISHRIN in Arabic 1 May 91 p 8

["An Opinion" column by 'Izz-al-Din Darwish]

[Text] The deadline set by the legitimate Lebanese authority for the disarmament of militias and for handing their weapons to the state ended last night. Today, 1 May 1991, Lebanon starts a crucial turning point in its modern history, carrying the slogan of accord, reconciliation, and serious work to rebuild the homeland. It is guided in that by the will of the people and their legitimate government.

To consolidate this Lebanese advance, there must be great and comprehensive cooperation with the legitimate government's decision on disarming militias.

Undoubtedly, this cooperation stems from the fact that national Lebanese accord has become the destiny of the Lebanese. It has also become an inevitable necessity for achieving the aspired security and stability and removing the effects of the civil conflicts that have afflicted Lebanon for over 15 years.

It can be said that Lebanon has now moved into a new and important era in its life. The Lebanese people have finally managed to impose their will, express their national cohesion, and assert their determination to

implement UN Security Council Resolution 425 concerning the South, to evict Israel from occupied Lebanese territory, and to restore the resources and waters that Israel is trying to steal as part of its aggressive, expansionist schemes.

The termination of the "age" of militias in Lebanon, first and foremost, means that the authority of the legitimate government will be spread, that peace and stability will be entrenched, that national unity will be consolidated, that gaps and excesses will be removed, and that the requirements for reawakening on firm bases will be provided, in a manner that meets Lebanon's immediate and future national and pan-Arab interests.

The battle for the liberation of the occupied South requires that national unity be consolidated and that the requirements of such unity be made available without wasting time regardless of the obstacles, which are certainly minor compared with other fateful issues.

Lebanese and others say that Lebanon could not have attained this major national accomplishment had it not for Syria and its relentless and continued efforts in supporting the march of salvation and accord and helping the Lebanese reach the shore of safety.

Syria has always been on Lebanon's side. It supported the will of the Lebanese people and strengthened the Lebanese legitimate authority. It made sacrifices for this sisterly country. Syria's past and continuing support for Lebanon is very great. It is appreciated by all Lebanese, who continuously express their pride in Syria's stands. They also express their determination to consolidate their distinguished relations with Syria—relations of brotherhood, history, and common destiny at all times and under all circumstances.

The most important thing is that Lebanon has overcome the obstacles and reached the current stage of stability and reconciliation. It is supported in that by the will of its people, the efforts of its legitimate authority, and its sister Syria. If much has been achieved—and it definitely has—much also remains to be done, and requires sincere efforts by everyone. Entrenching stability, reconstruction, and restoring the South are tasks that must be accomplished to reach an actual end of the crisis and its effects and to move to the new Lebanon.

Commentary: Israel Should Submit to UN

JN0905142091 Damascus Domestic Service in Arabic
1130 GMT 9 May 91

[Station commentary]

[Text] Gentlemen: It is not enough for the Arabs to show concern and readiness for peace; it is not enough for the leaders of the Soviet Union and the United States to dedicate much of their efforts and activities to launching the peace process, as long as the characteristics of any true desire to attain this peace have not yet risen on Israel's horizon.

Peace is a genuine Arab wish and a serious international desire. However, it is a source of fear, worry, and apprehension for Israel since peace prevents it from realizing its dearest hopes—unlike any other existing hopes—of establishing the Greater Israel of the Torah. Israel, unlike the rest of the world, does not see peace as a source of stability, security, and solidarity for people's right to live in peace, prosperity, and comfort. It does not care that if peace is not established, the stability of the region and the world will be shaken and the Middle East will continue to be an explosive hotbed threatening world peace and stability.

U.S. Secretary of State Baker has come to Syria three times in his past three tours. He is expected to arrive here once again within his fourth tour. From the Syrian leaders, he got, and will once again get, all responsiveness and readiness to establish a just and comprehensive peace based on the resolutions of international legitimacy, primarily Security Council Resolutions 242 and 338.

Today, Soviet Foreign Minister Aleksandr Bessmertnykh left Damascus after deep and frank talks on launching the peace process in the region. Bessmertnykh said he had not found any mentionable difficulties in Damascus. What Bessmertnykh has so far encountered—and before him his American counterpart, Baker—he will also encounter—as Baker did—in the other Arab capitals regarding the genuine, serious, and honest desire to establish peace in the region.

All this shows the international parties that are seeking peace which party they should apply pressure on to make it realize that its interests cannot come before the interests of the international community. Its designs, aspirations, and sick dreams based on a racist theory cannot be more important, more valuable, and more cherished than peace and stability in the region and the world.

In the same way that the world took a united stand against Iraq's occupation of Kuwait and its defiance of international legitimate resolutions, the world must take a similar stand forcing the Israeli aggressor to abandon its occupation of the occupied Arab territories, to recognize the legitimate rights of the Palestinian Arab people, and to submit to the resolutions of international legitimacy. Undoubtedly, the international community is capable of imposing its will when the necessary determination and will are available, as they were during the Iraqi occupation of Kuwait, to force Israel to comply and stop defying international legitimacy and being an obstacle in the way of a just and comprehensive peace, so that there will not be two standards and measures for dealing with the Middle East—one for the Arabs and other peoples, and another for Israel, the outlaw.

Commentary Stresses 'Continuous' Peace Conference

JN0805143291 Damascus Domestic Service in Arabic
1130 GMT 8 May 91

[Station commentary]

[Text] Gentlemen: In order for the world's effort to be fruitful as it consolidates the basis of genuine peace in the region and in order to avoid any ambiguity in the peace process being launched today, we in Syria, at every stage of dialogue and through lengthy discussions with the various international parties, have been eager to clarify and explain our viewpoint so as to allow no room for doubt about our desire to establish peace and reach a just and comprehensive solution of all aspects of the conflict in the region on the basis of international legitimacy and UN resolutions.

In his lengthy talks with U.S. Secretary Baker, leader al-Asad defined with his well-known clarity and with the precision required by sincere work in such a situation, Syria's position on all that is being proposed in the dialogue with the various sides, whether with regard to the essence of the crisis or to the procedural aspects of the peace conference.

Perhaps the Palestinian representation at the proposed peace conference was one of the most important issues that Syria wants to stress; that the Palestinians must participate in the peace conference through PLO representatives or Palestinian figures from the West Bank and the Gaza Strip who are directly elected by the Palestinian Arab people in the occupied territories under international supervision.

We say this because we need to reassert, as we have always done, that we are against any unilateral peace that Israel would establish with this or that other Arab side to the exclusion of others. We are not in favor of an Israeli-Palestinian peace as we also do not accept a separate Israeli-Syrian peace or any other separate peace, because this would fragment the cause, employ tricks in dealing with it, and evade tackling it in the useful manner that would really resolve it.

What is being discussed now is holding a peace conference in the Middle East to be attended by all parties concerned with the Arab-Israeli conflict in the region along with international participation of the Soviet Union, the United States, and the European Community under the supervision of the United Nations. It never occurred to us that such a conference would be a ceremonial one to end on the opening day. Rather, it should be continuous until a just and comprehensive solution is reached and the pillars of peace and security in the region are entrenched on the basis of UN resolutions, Resolutions 242 and 338 in particular.

If, through its declared positions and evil maneuvers, Israel wants to waste the world's time by moving from one rejected and denounced form of extremism to another, then, as we know and as the world has begun to realize, it is trying to abort Secretary Baker's task and disrupt the peace efforts by pressing ahead with its aggression plan against the Arabs, their land, and their future. Because we want Baker's mission and the international endeavors by various parties to succeed, we can now stress that Israel alone will be held responsible for the failure of this

mission and endeavors, because it has always been opposed to peace. Only war and aggression conform with its policy.

Paper Urges Freeing South Lebanon

JN0805061991 Damascus Domestic Service in Arabic
0445 GMT 7 May 91

[From the press review]

[Text] Under the headline "Lebanon Realizes its Salvation," AL-BATH says: The march of national solution in Lebanon is progressing firmly and forcefully toward its aspired objectives based on the al-Ta'if agreement and its provisions, which, since their adoption, have epitomized the Lebanese people's ambition and hope for a safe future.

The Lebanese body was so weakened by wounds that it was about to be exhausted. It was threatened with partition plans, submission to Zionist hegemony, and repeated conspiracies against Lebanon and its sons.

Therefore, legitimacy should be restored on the basis of a reconciliatory charter that combines rather than separates, builds rather than destroys, and that safeguards rather than betrays. Thus, the march toward the solution proceeds firmly and strongly, taking care of every one and showing patience toward every one. Syria's support for the agreement and accord enabled Lebanon to continue to build the capable and sound homeland.

The paper adds: Syria, which extended brotherly support to Lebanon and offered it unlimited sacrifices during the painful 15-year ordeal, only wanted Lebanon's salvation, not its territory. It wanted it to achieve freedom, honor, and liberation from all forms of hegemony, not to ensnare and partition it.

The paper concludes: Lebanon's final salvation and the closure of the file of its prolonged crisis have actually been achieved. Nothing remains except the liberation of the South and the implementation of Resolution 425 in any way whatsoever to achieve that objective, which is the responsibility of every one who is sincere to the march toward a national solution in Lebanon.

Lebanese Have 'Right' To Defy Israeli Ambitions

JN0705165591 Damascus AL-BATH in Arabic
3 May 91 p 1

[Editorial: "Lebanon Closes the Gate To the Past"]

[Text] The Lebanese people understand their national needs and have voluntarily responded to their country's call. They realize that hope lies in security and stability and have therefore prepared themselves for a stage when Lebanon's unity, independence, and freedom would be maintained.

The legitimate government is a model of tolerance and patience. It has dealt with every situation in the appropriate way. Wisdom is necessary, as is adherence to principles. Since the al-Ta'if Accord is the authority and basis of reconciliation, the legitimate Lebanese government has armed itself with the desire of the Lebanese people, and thus triumphed over weakness; it has adhered to right, and thus overcome obstacles.

This achievement by the legitimate government is in harmony with Arab Syria's commitment to defend Lebanon, its security, and its independence. This commitment has a great and direct role in boosting legitimate structures and in entrenching the official positions that place the interests of the country above the interests of individuals and groups that fragmented the country—but not the sentiments of its people.

Now that the arms of the legitimate government have reached out to all sides and the gap is being bridged to close the door to the past, the Lebanese people still have plenty to do to enhance their credibility and sense of belonging to the homeland.

Southern Lebanon and its sons are still suffering, and this suffering will only come to an end through cohesion, solidarity, and assertion of the sanctity of national soil. As long as Israel defies international will, the people of Lebanon will have every right to defy Zionist ambitions in their land, water, and resources.

But this requires that the Lebanese should first chant for Lebanon with one voice, and that no one among them should justify Israel's covetous policy or turn a blind eye to it.

Since collective Arab efforts managed to make the al-Ta'if agreement a base for reconciliation and accord, a Lebanon belonging to its Arab nation can embody this accord and carry it up to a level where all Arab efforts will be in the interest of Lebanon and its people.

This can be achieved by turning over a new leaf and starting work to link the Lebanese coast with the Arab mainland and turn Lebanon into an Arab window to the entire Arab future.

And because Syria has all along been eager to add Lebanon's force to Arab power, the Lebanese people will always find in Syria a country that backs and protects them, a sister that gives without taking. This proceeds from the assertions of Syria's honest leader Hafiz al-Asad that the security of Lebanon and Syria are one and the same thing. Syria has pledged to defend Lebanon—land and citizenry—and will remain faithful to that pledge.

Paper Calls For Firm Measures Against Israel

JN0105061591 Damascus Domestic Service in Arabic
0445 GMT 1 May 91

[From the press review]

[Text] Under the headline "Israeli Intransigence and the Required Measures," TISHRIN says: The world now faces a unique case of Israeli challenge, provocation, and arrogance that leaves no room for the international community's resolutions, international norms, and human values.

The paper adds: The international community must take specific measures to punish Israel, which has struck at the peaceful efforts. The UN Security Council must take firm resolutions, impose comprehensive sanctions on Israel, and expel it from the United Nations, especially since this international organization theoretically dropped the Israeli entity from its membership when it adopted a resolution considering Israel a country hostile to peace.

TISHRIN concludes: In its responsibility as a superpower, Washington must put an end to Israeli defiance and prevent the Tel Aviv rulers from disrupting international and U.S. peace efforts.

Iranian Labor Minister Arrives, Praises Ties

JN0905191691 Damascus Domestic Service in Arabic
1815 GMT 9 May 91

[Text] Damascus—Iranian Labor and Social Affairs Minister Hoseyn Kamali, along with an Iranian delegation, arrived in Damascus this evening on a four-day visit to the Syrian Arab Republic.

The Iranian guest was welcomed upon arrival at Damascus international airport by Haydar Buzu, minister of social affairs and labor; senior ministry officials; Hasan Akhtari, Iranian ambassador in Damascus; Shaykh Mohammad Shari'ati, cultural adviser; and embassy staff.

In a statement to SANA, Kamali expressed happiness with this visit, which is to translate into deeds the excellent ties between Syria and Iran in all spheres.

WPK Delegation Leaves Damascus 7 May

JN0705175791 Damascus SANA in Arabic 1600 GMT
7 May 91

[Text] Damascus, 7 May (SANA)—Choe Tae-pok, secretary of the Central Committee of the Workers' Party of Korea (WPK), and his delegation left Damascus today.

He was seen off at the airport by comrade Mut'ib Shinan, member of the Ba'ith Party National Command, and the Korean ambassador in Damascus.

Afghanistan

Gaylani Urges Soviet Pressure on Kabul

PM0705141591 London AL-SHARQ AL-AWSAT
in Arabic 3 May 91 p 6

[Interview with Sayyed Ahmad Gaylani, "chief justice in the mujahidin interim government and leader of the National Front for the Liberation of Afghanistan," by Ahmad Muwaffaq Zaydan in Peshawar; date not given]

[Excerpts] [passage omitted] [Zaydan] After the mujahidin victory in Khowst and the Kabul regime's strike against Asadabad, how does Sayyed Gaylani see the chances of a political and military solution?

[Gaylani] Undoubtedly, the Khowst victory is a major victory in the Afghan jihad's history, and we are proud of it. And I believe that any military victory must be accompanied by a political victory. This is a general rule. The objective of war is not the war itself but the achievement of a political aim and in this case an honorable political solution for our mujahidin people in Afghanistan. And we want to exploit the Khowst victory. Praise God, the enemy now knows that we have the power and the will to capture other places, even the capital. But the problem is that shelling and conquering any city would cost jihad supporters a great deal. This is because, for every renegade enemy home damaged, 10 mujahidin supporters' homes will be harmed. As for Asadabad and what happened there, we expect nothing better from the enemy, namely that he hits us and we hit him. And anyone among us who is killed dies in God's cause. Certainly if they get the chance they will hit us, because they have more military resources like long-range missiles and aircraft.

[Zaydan] You talk about a political solution. Do you mean by that that the talks and negotiations will be with the Soviets or with the Kabul regime in order to arrive at that solution?

[Gaylani] I am not saying with the Kabul regime. But I mean that a method must be found to secure a political solution. And we urge our brothers in the Islamic and friendly states to put pressure on the Soviets to get them, in turn, to put pressure on the Kabul government to relinquish power and hand over government to the Afghan people, who would determine their destiny by themselves. [passage omitted]

[Zaydan] What is the biggest concession you would offer for the political solution you are seeking?

[Gaylani] We want the regime to relinquish power to qualified personalities or personalities agreed by the majority of the Afghan people.

[Zaydan] And who would decide whether or not these personalities were supported by the Afghan people?

[Gaylani] Let them step down first and let an interim government come to replace the communist government, then we would find a way later, taking account of our Arab and Muslim brothers' and friends' help. The first step is for the regime to step down. [passage omitted]

[Zaydan] In your view, what is the next step the mujahidin should take after the Khowst victory?

[Gaylani] The next step will be Gardeyz, Jalalabad, or Ghazni, and we are preparing ourselves. And political pressure must be exerted with our Muslim brothers' help. But before the offensive I prefer pressures and a political solution.

[Zaydan] A Soviet delegation will arrive in Islamabad in a few days to meet with Pakistani officials and discuss the Afghan problem. Will you be meeting it?

[Gaylani] I do not know. We have not been informed of anything.

[Zaydan] Have you noted any change in the Soviets' language since the capture of Khowst?

[Gaylani] I believe that the Soviets are willing to search for a political solution. And there is great pressure on them, especially in view of their internal and economic conditions. [passage omitted]

Latest Military Operations Detailed

LD0905093791 Kabul BAKHTAR in English
0420 GMT 9 May 91

[Text] Kabul, May 8, BAKHTAR—During the mopping up operations of the units and detachments of the Armed Forces carried out in the Jowzjan, and Nangarhar Provinces and other corners of the country 25 extremists were killed and 19 others wounded during the last week (May 1-7, 1991), a concerned military source reported to BAKHTAR today.

A sizable arms and ammunition including 3 heavy machine-guns, 119 ground to ground rockets, 57 warheads, 8 anti-tank bullets, 11 mortar shells, 10 anti-personel mines, 2 cases of bullets, a cannon, 24,000 bullets, several depots, 2 mortars, bm-1, 6 machine-guns, 3 reactives and 48 cannon shells were seized.

Sanguinary clashes took place among the Rabbani, Gulbuddin, Mawlawi Nabi, Sayyaf and Mojaddedi groupings in the Laghman, Helman and Zabol Provinces 34 extremists were killed and 156 others wounded.

A group of 19 armed men abandoned armed activities and joined defenders of the country in Badakhshan Province during the week too.

The report said that over 218 refugee families numbering 844 persons returned home from abroad in this interval.

Notes number 1898-1908 of the Ministry of Foreign Affairs on violations by Pakistan of the Geneva Accords

were handed over to the Office on the UN Secretary General in Afghanistan and Pakistan "OSGAP" as well.

Rebels Capture District on Soviet Border

BK0905140991 Hong Kong AFP in English 1352 GMT 9 May 91

[Text] Peshawar, Pakistan, May 9 (AFP)—Mujahidin guerrillas captured an important district in northern Afghanistan on the border with the Soviet Union two days ago, the resistance government in exile announced here Thursday.

It said Qaysar District, 40 kilometres southwest of the Faryab Province capital of Maymaneh, fell after mujahidin overran dozens of government posts.

The announcement said 125 Kabul government soldiers and militiamen were killed, 150 wounded and 358 were taken prisoner with their weapons. Resistance losses were put at 28 dead and 62 injured. The statement did not say how long the battle lasted.

The mujahidin seized a large quantity of arms, including 4,000 AK-47s, 120 machine guns of different calibre and a number of tanks and military vehicles, it said.

In retaliatory bombings, Kabul warplanes destroyed hundreds of mud houses in and around Qaysar, reported the MIDIA [MEDIA INFORMATION DEPARTMENT OF ISLAMIC AFGHANISTAN] news agency run by the resistance Afghan Interim Government.

Since their capture of the garrison city of Khowst near the Pakistan border on March 31, the guerrillas have stepped up attacks in northern and southern parts of Afghanistan.

The fall of Qaysar is the third reported success of guerrillas operating in northern Afghanistan. Earlier the resistance claimed the capture of nearby Dasht-e Arshi District and a chain of 30 villages.

The guerrillas have said they plan to launch attacks on Gardeyz, near Khowst, and on Jalalabad, the third largest city after Kabul and Qandahar, as part of their 12-year fight to dislodge President Najibullah's government.

Seize District in Faryab

BK0905142091 Islamabad Domestic Service in Urdu 1400 GMT 9 May 91

[Text] In Afghanistan, the mujahidin seized another district, Qaysar, in northern Faryab Province after a fierce battle with the Kabul regime's forces. The mujahidin killed over 100 Kabul troops, captured over 350, and injured several others. They also seized huge quantities of arms and ammunition, including thousands of Kalashnikovs, machine guns, and 12 tanks. Reports say that after the fall of the district, the Kabul regime's aircraft heavily bombed the area.

Hikmatyar Rules Out Peace Talks With USSR

BK1005005091 Hong Kong AFP in English 1713 GMT 9 May 91

[Text] Peshawar, Pakistan, May 9 (AFP)—Fundamentalist Afghan rebel leader Gulbuddin Hikmatyar on Thursday ruled out any peace talks with the Soviet Union and the government of President Najibullah it supports in Kabul.

"The Afghan people will decide their future on their own, and will not accept any government that is imposed on them," the leader of the Hezb-e Eslami (Party of Islam) faction told a press conference here. If the rebels have had any contact with Kremlin officials in Pakistan or elsewhere, he said, it was over the eventual exchange of prisoners in the 11-year conflict.

Three hundred Soviet soldiers were reported missing after the Red Army withdrew from Afghanistan two years ago, and the mujahidin hopes to swap some of them for guerrillas held by the Afghan Government.

Mr. Hikmatyar said that in any event, "neither would the mujahidin accept solutions put forth by Moscow (to end the Afghan conflict), nor will Moscow accept our solutions."

He also criticized the United States, saying that it was collaborating with Moscow to prevent the mujahidin from creating an Islamic government in Kabul. He said the Council of Rebel Commanders, or Shura, had been formed last year at "the instigation of America" to deepen divisions between the mujahidin and the parties to which they are affiliated.

He added that the March 31 capture of the eastern garrison town of Khowst by Afghan rebels "proved that the Afghan conflict can be resolved by military means. We will not lay down weapons so long as the Najibullah regime has not fallen," he said.

India

Minister Rules Out President's Rule in Bihar

BK0805132891 Delhi Domestic Service in English 1230 GMT 8 May 91

[Text] The minister of state for home, Mr. Subodh Kant, has ruled out the possibility of imposition of president's rule in Bihar. Talking to newsmen in New Delhi this evening, the minister said right now there is no possibility of postponement of elections in the state. He said the home secretary has today made a written request to the Election Commission for making available to the government the report of the central observers who visited Bihar recently for an overall review of the situation in the state. The minister also told newsmen that the Election Commission had earlier asked for a report of the central team, but it has not been forwarded as it is not the practice. [sentence as heard] He said the Bihar

government has been asked to ban carrying of private arms to minimize chances of any violence.

A delegation of senior Janata Dal leaders, including Mr. V.P. Singh and Mr. S.R. Bommai, met President Venkataraman this evening and urged him not to act on the reported advice of the union government calling for action against the Bihar ministry. Briefing newsmen after the meeting, the spokesman of the team, Mr. Jaipal Reddy, said that the Lalu Prasad government had, on the request of the Election Commission, decided not to deploy the Home Guards for duty at polling stations. He regretted that the center had not yet sent additional forces to Bihar as requested by the state government.

Reportage on Kashmir Situation, Violence

Fears of Poll Disturbances

BK0905125291 *Delhi Domestic Service in English*
1230 GMT 9 May 91

[Text] The center has expressed fears that attempts will be made to create large-scale disturbances in the Kashmir valley to coincide with the coming elections. An official spokesman told newsmen in New Delhi today that the recent infiltration of Pak-trained militants in the Kupwara sector has confirmed such suspicion. Security forces feel that more concerted attempts at infiltration are likely in the coming days taking advantage of inclement weather and spreading out of the troops on election duties. The spokesman said that vigilance across the border is being stepped up.

Intensified Militant Activities Noted

BK0905154091 *Delhi Domestic Service in English*
1430 GMT 9 May 91

[Text] The center has expressed fears that attempts will be made to create large-scale disturbances in the Kashmir valley to coincide with the coming elections.

An official spokesman told newsmen in New Delhi today that the recent infiltration of Pak-trained militants in the Kupwara sector has confirmed such suspicion. Security forces feel that more concerted attempts of infiltration are likely in the coming days taking advantage of inclement weather and spreading out of the troops on election duties. The spokesman said that vigilance across the border is being stepped up.

On preliminary interrogation of those captured, it has been established that the latest infiltrators belong to four major militant groups operating in the valley. The spokesman pointed out that in earlier encounters with security forces across the line of control the militants ('inside') used to surrender or run back. But this time, they fired at the troops and forced the encounter to go on for two days.

As already reported, 73 militants were killed, 14 captured in the process. The change of situation appears to be the result of more intense training being given to the

present batch of militants across the border and strict briefing given to them. According to information reaching New Delhi, militants in Jammu and Kashmir have been instructed to step up violent activities and particularly eliminate those political personalities who favor any peace initiative. About 5,000 militants are reported to be in 38 training camps in Pak-occupied Kashmir, 42 centers in other parts of Pakistan.

BJP Likely To Seek Congress-I Support

BK0905162491 *Delhi Domestic Service in English*
1530 GMT 9 May 91

[Text] The BJP [Bharatiya Janata Party] vice president, Mr. K.R. Malkani, has said that he could not rule out the possibility of his party seeking the Congress-I support to form a government. Addressing a meet-the-press program in Bhopal today, Mr. Malkani in reply to a question on his party forming a government with the Congress-I support, said anything is possible.

Reacting to Mr. Malkani's statement, the Congress-I spokesman, Mr. Pranab Mukherjee, ruled out his party having any alliance or adjustment with the BJP at any stage. Mr. Mukherjee described Mr. Malkani's statement as part of a disinformation campaign by the BJP.

11, Including 9 'Militants,' Killed in Punjab

BK1005045891 *Delhi Domestic Service in English*
0435 GMT 10 May 91

[Text] In Punjab, 11 persons, including nine militants, were killed in separate incidents since yesterday. In (Gyadpura) village near Mudhiana, militants ambushed a police party. In the resulting exchange of fire, four militants were killed.

Iran

Syria's Qaddur Arrives With Relief for Refugees

NC1005073491 *Tehran Voice of the Islamic Republic of Iran First Program Network in Persian* 0330 GMT 10 May 91

[Text] Mr. Qaddur, Syria's minister of state for foreign affairs, arrived in Tehran last night. Two planes carrying Syrian assistance for the Iraqi refugees landed at Tehran airport along with the plane carrying the Syrian official. During his stay in Iran, Mr. Qaddur is to visit Iraqi refugee camps in southern Iran.

To Review Refugees' Condition

JN1005061891 *Damascus Domestic Service in Arabic*
0415 GMT 10 May 91

[Text] Tehran—Nasir Qaddur, [Syrian] minister of state for foreign affairs, yesterday arrived in Tehran on a visit to the Islamic Republic of Iran. He was received at

Tehran airport by Hoseyn Shaykholeslam, Iran's deputy foreign minister, and the staff of the Syrian Embassy in Tehran.

Mr. Qaddur stated that his visit comes within the framework of the excellent relations between Syria and Iran. He added that during the visit, he will acquaint himself with the condition of the Iraqi refugees in Iran. He stressed the Syrian Arab people's solidarity and sympathy with the refugees who fled the Iraqi regime and its tyrannical ways. Mr. Qaddur said: All Iraqi people are suffering because of the crimes of the head of the regime, Saddam Husayn, and they are the victims of that regime.

IRNA Views U.S., Soviet Policy in Mideast

LD1005102991 Tehran IRNA in English 0931 GMT
10 May 91

[Text] Athens, May 10, IRNA—In the past when a U.S. secretary of state used to visit the Middle East the most important file in his briefcase would be marked "threat of Soviet expansionism in the region."

One of the cornerstones of American policy in the Middle East was to contain the Soviet Communist threat, besides guaranteeing the cheap flow of oil to the West and to secure the existence of the Zionist state.

When a Soviet foreign minister would visit the region he would most probably carry in his briefcase a file marked "how to break U.S. influence."

But with the end of the Cold War-superpower rivalry, led by the collapse of Communism, a new era of understanding between the supernation, United States, and the no-longer-superpower, the Soviet Union, has started. U.S. President George Bush and Soviet leader Mikhail Gorbachev had already laid the groundworks of the "new world order" in their Malta summit of 1989. U.S. Secretary of State James Baker and the Soviet Foreign Minister Aleksandr Bessmertnykh are to meet in the heart of a Muslim capital—Cairo—on Sunday [12 May] to chalk out the new order for the Middle East. The Soviet minister is not coming to the region to lay mines for his American counterpart as in the past, but to spread the carpet.

Due to pressing priorities on domestic issues—perestroika, glasnost, ethnic unrest, ailing economy—and other international problems like disarmament, the Middle East was not in the focus of the Soviet policy in the 80s. Besides Afghanistan, from where the Soviets had to withdraw with a bleeding nose, the Iran-Iraq war was the biggest challenge for Moscow's Mideast policies in the last decade.

On the 8-year Iraqi-imposed war, Moscow maintained similar policies with Washington, massive arms aid to Iraq to prevent it from losing, to keep the conflict localised and to but keep the oil flow free from disturbance. But unlike the United States that had no relations

with the Islamic Republic of Iran, the Soviet Union also tried to balance its ties with the important neighbor to the south.

Baker is coming to the region for the fourth time since the end of the Persian Gulf war in a frenetic pursuit of a peace settlement that would guarantee the existence of Israel. The Soviets have agreed to a U.S.-proposed regional peace conference which would lead to direct talks between the Arab states and Israel.

Since the Camp David peace treaty, the Soviet Union was kept out from any peace process in the Middle East. Moscow's participation in the regional conference now would, however, be merely ceremonial as the U.S. is going to set the stage.

The shuttle diplomacy of former American Secretary of State Henry Kissinger under the presidency of Jimmy Carter resulted in the Camp David treaty between Egypt and the Zionist state in 1978.

The U.S., emerging as "the savior of the just cause" after the Persian Gulf war, is now pressing for a comprehensive Arab-Israeli peace settlement that would bury the key problem of the region, the Palestinian question.

The Soviet Union's policy towards the Palestine issue is enigmatic. On the one hand, Moscow says it would not restore diplomatic ties with Israel, broken since the 1967 war, until progress is achieved on the peace process. On the other hand, Moscow is allowing the mass migration of Soviet Jews to occupied Palestine, a factor that is strengthening the existence of the Zionist state.

The U.S., free from inner upheavals and unrest, could follow a calculated interest-policy and increase its influence in the region during the last two decades. Following the 1973 Arab-Israeli war, the U.S. had achieved a strategic profit in the region when the biggest Arab country Egypt turned its back to Moscow and made a pro-West turn.

Soviet policy in the Arab world has been one of restraint rather than confrontation. During the Israeli invasion of Lebanon in 1982 Moscow just looked on, fearing a confrontation with the United States. It merely issued warnings to Israel not to attack Syria with whom Moscow has signed a friendship pact. When in 1986 American planes bombarded Libya, another close Arab friend of Moscow, the Soviets kept back. In the Persian Gulf war the Soviets abandoned one of their closest friends in the Arab world, Iraq.

Learning from the debacle of the Afghanistan war, the Soviets are now very shy of thinking of any military intervention in the Middle East. The new Soviet interest in the region does not seem to show any serious interest in solving problems, but rather in having a say in the issues.

Turkish Official Cited on Energy Agreement

LD0905081691 Tehran IRNA in English 0731 GMT
9 May 91

[Text] Ankara, May 9, IRNA—Turkey is to supply two billion kilowatts of electricity to Iran per year, according to an agreement signed between Iran and Turkey here last week.

At a press interview here Wednesday Turkey's Minister of State in Charge of Oil Affairs Mehmet Kececiler said that Iran would supply as much as three million tons of crude oil to Turkey and the petrol company of Turkey would also supply 10,000 tons of motor oil to Iran.

A gas trunkline is also to be laid between Iran and Turkey. 1,300 kilometers of the trunkline is to be laid in Iran and another 1,700 kilometers in the Turkish soil. From Turkey the trunkline will fork into Bulgaria and Greece.

The value of the project is dlr. 10 billion and its annual conduit capacity will be about 10 billion cubic meters, of which Turkey will use between four to five billion for domestic consumption.

According to the Turkish minister, a letter of understanding signed between Iran and Turkey during the last week visit to Ankara by Iran's President hojjat ol-Eslam Akbar Hashemi-Rafsanjani, until 1994 Turkey will supply seven billion kilowatt/hour electricity to Iran, and after that the two countries will exchange two billion kilowatt electricity per year.

The letter of understanding signed between the two countries last week also repeals a previous agreement for converting dlr. 100.00 for each truck on transit from either country to the other. Each year about 40,000 trucks from Turkey arrive in Iran against about 6,000 trucks from Iran to Turkey. As of July 1 this year Turkey is to repeal a law that restricts the number of Iranian trucks on transit in Turkey.

The Turkish Oil Ministry official also added that an abandoned Iran-Turkey and Turkey-Iran railway service is to become operational shortly. The railway operates between Tehran-Istanbul and Istanbul-Tehran on a weekly basis.

Minister on Success of Security Forces Merger

LD0905202991 Tehran Voice of the Islamic Republic of Iran First Program Network in Persian 1930 GMT
9 May 91

[Text] In a speech to a justifying gathering [as heard] of regional commanders of the country's law-enforcement forces, the interior minister said: Through the blessings of God and the efforts of officials and commanders, the merger proposals of the security forces to form a single law-enforcement force were carried out successfully.

Mr Nuri, who addressed the gathering on Thursday afternoon, added: Forty days have passed since the

implementation of the merger proposals for the security forces of the Islamic Republic of Iran. Through the kind blessings of God, progress has been better than expected. The various regional commanders should describe their successes to the people.

Continuing his speech, and referring to the issue of discipline among personnel of the law enforcement forces, he said: Law enforcement personnel should set an example of discipline for the people. The people should feel safe when confronted with the caring and disciplined attitude of the law-enforcement personnel in their struggle against crime and vice.

Plans for Hajj, 'Antipathy' Rally Reported

LD0905171891 Tehran IRNA in English 1408 GMT
9 May 91

[Text] Tehran, May 9, IRNA—Iranians going to Saudi Arabia on the annual hajj pilgrimage this year are to express "antipathy towards pagans", the deputy chief of the hajj and pilgrimage organization said on Thursday.

Upon his return from Saudi Arabia, Mohammad Hoseyn Reza'i told IRNA at the airport "the place where pilgrims are to assemble is not yet known but some agreements have been reached with Saudi hajj authorities."

He said Iran insisted that the residence of its pilgrims in Mecca be the venue of their "antipathy" gathering so that other Muslims could easily go to and from it.

Terming his talks with Saudi officials as "useful", Reza'i said it was also agreed that some 3,000 Iranians visit Saudi Arabia every week to perform the "umra" hajj (voluntary pilgrimage to the kaaba) after the days of hajj, during a seven month period.

Referring to some shortages facing pilgrims of all nationalities in Mecca this year, he said "a major problem we are concerned about is the housing of Iranian pilgrims."

"In my talks with Saudi officials yesterday, they promised that no problems would arise in renting residential centers for pilgrims."

He said the number of Iranians who are to go to Mecca this year has remained unchanged at 110,000 plus 5,000 of relatives of martyrs.

Reza'i heading a delegation departed for Saudi Arabia Monday for talks with Saudi officials on the problems that may face Iranian pilgrims during their annual pilgrimage.

In 1987, some 400 pilgrims, mainly Iranians, were killed as Saudi police and security forces opened fire on a peaceful "antipathy" rally in Mecca.

The diplomatic relations between the two countries severed after the Mecca tragedy, were resumed last month.

*** RESALAT Report on 3 Mar Majles Session**

91AS0718A Tehran RESALAT in Persian
4 Mar 91 pp 5,11

[Text] Legal and Majles Department—The Majles met in public session yesterday morning, chaired by Hojjat ol-Eslam Hashemiyan.

At this session, after remarks by the deputies from Tehran, Bojnurd and Rasht, the Majles went into its agenda.

At this session, New Year bonus payments were approved for those eligible for the Martyr Raja'i project (under the auspices of the Relief Committee).

Printed below are the remarks by the pre-agenda speakers and the legislation approved by the Majles.

Mohammad Reza Bahonar, Tehran Deputy

The first pre-agenda speaker at yesterday's public Majles session was Mohammad Reza Bahonar, Tehran deputy. In his talk he offered congratulations on the birth anniversary of His Holiness Mahdi (may God hasten his joyful advent) and then discussed the exalted leader's imam-like and forceful remarks in mid-Sha'ban [2 March]:

The prudent guidance and analysis of the exalted leader on the Persian Gulf crisis and His Excellency's decisive anti-imperialist positions and appropriate warnings made clear the new duties of the Islamic nation and the people of the Persian Gulf region.

He added: America and its allies must realize that the era of installing hand-picked governments based on the policies of past centuries in the nations of the world has come to an end. The nations of the region will not permit them to interfere in their domestic affairs. Let the fate of the ruling regime in Iraq and the region's other nations be whatever it may be, but if the imperialist powers are hoping to create and preserve governments affiliated with them while removing unrest in the region, they must realize that the governments of their supporters may last a few days, but they will take to their graves the hope to silence the liberation movements, especially the intifada.

The speaker discussed the clear successes of Mr. Hashemi-Rafsanjani's government with the policy of economic adjustment. He said: The clear successes of the toiling government of Mr. Hashemi-Rafsanjani, especially in the economic area, official studies of the budget for 1370 [21 March 1991-20 March 1992] and reports on the achievements of the budget for 1369 [21 March 1990-20 March 1991], are increasing hopes for the future every day. The reduction of inflation in excess of 30 percent in the year 1367 [21 March 1988-20 March 1989] to about 17 percent in the year 1368 [21 March 1989-20 March 1990] and to the miraculous figure of 7 percent in the last ten months of 1369 [22 May 1990-20 March 1991] shows the effort and management of the respected president of the republic and the firm determination of the ministers to solve economic problems. The success of government in not using the

loans authorized by the Majles is the first such occurrence since the triumph of the revolution and the reduction of borrowing from 52 percent in 1367 to less than ten percent for the coming year shows that the goals of the first Five-Year Plan are progressing even faster than anticipated. The change from policies of economic stabilization to policies of economic adjustment can produce such results. Although reducing the subsidies paid on goods not consumed by all the people may cause localized high prices, the overall result will be to reduce the obscene level of borrowing and currency in circulation resulting from inflation. We hope, by the end of the year 1372 [20 March 1994], which is the end of the Five-Year Plan, to reach an inflation rate of five percent. The Tehran deputy emphasized: The struggle against increased prices for some goods not generally consumed, although certainly is the result of the concern among the dear deputies, can in practice stifle hopeful economic activity. An example is the bill presented by a group of deputies stating that "the government does not have the right to increase the price of any kind of goods."

God willing, with the intelligence and alertness of a majority of the deputies, bills such as this will not be approved and, God forbid, there will be no call in the Majles for a challenge to the policies of the beloved government of Mr. Hashemi-Rafsanjani and the first Five-Year Economic and Social Expansion Plan, approved by this very Majles.

Elsewhere in his talk, Mohammad Reza Bahonar discussed the government's foreign policy. He noted:

The foreign policy of the Islamic Republic of Iran, just as outlined his holiness the imam (God's paradise be upon him), includes permanent nonrecognition of the regimes in power in occupied Palestine and South Africa and no direct relations or direct or indirect talks with criminal America. Apart from these three governments, expanding relations with other nations, to the extent it is deemed to be in the interest of the sacred Islamic goals by the nation's officials, is not only without obstacles, it is even recommended. It is natural that the Supreme National Security Council and the government of the Islamic Republic of Iran do not react to the opposition of some people who do not really accept the government's foreign policy. Unfortunately we see that some so-called radical Majles deputies one day consider the life of the "leader of Libya" to be the model of the Islamic life and another day their friends, in relation to the "king of Jordan," praise his anti-imperialist positions. One day they criticize the government's officials for not punishing the aggressor, and another day they compare him to Khalid Ibn-Valid. When they hear a protest, they reverse themselves again and call him a criminal. The flip-flops by the so-called radicals and their acts in opposition invite the conclusion that even individual political awareness, which in the past was confirmed by His Holiness the imam (God's paradise upon him) will fail and cause the individual to adopt fruitless and unreasonable positions if not employed in the interest of the government's anti-imperialist positions.

Continuing his remarks, the Tehran deputy discussed the Islamic council elections in the rural areas. He said: It seems that Islamic council elections are to be held throughout the country next year. Just as the martyr-nurturing nation knows, the Majles is to supervise these elections. The Majles deputies have elected five members of the central council. In accordance with the text of the law, this council must select councils to supervise the elections in each province, composed of Majles deputies from that province. The most natural and acceptable way to select the province councils is to designate a supervisor for each council as recommended by the deputies of that province. Unfortunately, however, in this selection the members of the central council have taken a completely factional and ideological approach, and they have selected deputies from each province who follow their own line, and as far as they were able they have not selected even one person from the other Majles faction for these councils. I say as far as they were able because two provinces, Bushehr and Chahar Mahall va Bakhtiari, have only three deputies each, and they were forced to select them. In the other provinces however, such as Khorasan, Mazandaran, Esfahan, and others, they sought to appoint the most hard-line members of their own faction for this work. The Ministry of the Interior, in addition to some reforms in its main body, has yet not been able to alter the spirit of factional thinking among the political officials in the provinces and in the main body of the Ministry of the Interior, which is the legacy of the former minister of the interior. It reached the point that in the last Majles election they erred on the Tehran vote count alone enough to keep Mr. Behruzzi out of the Majles at first. With a memo to the respected Council of Guardians and a recount, which can be monitored with a simple counting machine, they saw their (God willing) unintentional mistake, and corrected it. Now, despite the not inconsiderable number of violations by the officials of the election executive councils and the unequivocal coordination of the supervision, it is already apparent that we cannot expect sound elections for the councils. On the one hand, the province electoral supervisory councils, despite the fact that supervision of this matter is the duty of the Majles, were not willing even in the selection of the municipal supervisory councils to ask for consultation with the deputies of that municipality. It is clear that close to 100 Majles deputies, who have absolutely no role in the supervision of these elections, will not ignore this legal and clear right of theirs. I call upon the respected speaker of the Majles, now that the first elections of councils since the triumph of the revolution are to be held with the supervision of the Majles, not to allow the councils to be formed on the basis of no confidence in the people and not to permit their work to be undermined through such unjust actions as have been taken since the first day.

He supported the fatherly and worthy position of the Qom Seminary Teachers' Society with regard to the Bill To Amend the Majles Election Law. He noted: I thank the Qom Seminary Teachers' Society for its timely and fatherly memo to the Majles deputies asking for careful

consideration during the second consultation on the Bill To Amend the Majles Election Law. I hope that during the second consultation the respected deputies will use the necessary depth and foresight so as not to adopt positions they will regret during the next term of the Majles because of, God forbid, entry into the bastion of the Majles by deviated and corrupt people. I hope they will remember that His Holiness the imam (God's paradise be upon him) praised the Majles as the "best of the nation." In the first Majles term since the death of the imam, they must not permit irreligious libertines, major sinners and those with little faith to come back to this Majles, and of course such a thing will not happen while the system based on the authority of the chief jurisconsult and the shadow of the exalted leader consider preserving the values of Islam and the sacred Islamic government as their highest and most essential duty. Only the pure face of the Majles will be questioned before almighty God, God forbid that such a thing should happen.

At the end of his talk, Bahonar criticized the excessive and pointless trips by the deputies to other countries. He added: Unfortunately trips abroad by the Majles deputies during the third Majles term, since they were without supervision of the body, have created numerous difficulties which are absolutely unworthy of the government of the Islamic Republic of Iran. Although the world is extensive and there is much tourism and traveling to do, because there is no coordinating center, unfortunately in the last year or two some countries such as North Korea, China, Japan and some European countries have seen an unacceptable level of as many as half of the Majles deputies, some of whom, out of spite, have protested against Foreign Ministry officials. I hope that during what remains of this Majles term the leadership of the Majles will arrange to reduce the number of these trips and to improve their quality in terms of promoting the true status of the government's officials.

***Ali Mothaqar, Bojnurd Deputy**

*Ali Mothaqar from Bojnurd electoral district, was the third pre-agenda speaker at yesterday's public Majles session. He offered congratulations on the joyous birth anniversary of the imam of the age (may God hasten his joyful advent), and observed that we must make preparations for his return. He said: Preparing means making the Government of the Islamic Republic move as much as possible towards achieving the goals expected when his holiness arrives, or at least making efforts to that effect.

Enumerating the goals expected with the arrival of his holiness, he added: Among all the things a human being expects is justice. Every government's survival depends on it, and it has many dimensions. For example, all individuals in society must be equal before the judiciary, a government executive organization must treat equally all its workers (in terms of their expectations for work or the creation of a salary payment system and equal wages for them), the Voice and Vision Organization [Iranian radio and television] must treat equally the legislative,

executive and judicial branches, and social, economic and other forms of justice must be established. These are all manifestations of justice in the government.

Continuing, Mohaqar added: Today, one-fifth of a year since my last pre-agenda speech, three of the issues that I presented have been given serious attention by the government. First, steps are being taken to reduce currency in circulation, second, measures to transfer a large quantity of government assets by transferring shares at so-called official prices to private individuals or groups are being prevented, and finally, we are approaching a single-price economic system where only the system of supply and demand sets prices.

He then discussed the change in political equilibrium in the world. He said: Today conditions in the world are so complicated that one cannot study them only with simple methods. Proven oil reserves in the Middle East, which were estimated at only nine billion barrels in 1940, or only one-sixth of the world's reserves, are now estimated at more than four-sixths of the world's reserves. Oil production cannot continue at the rate of the past few years, because America, which has only five percent of OPEC's reserves, has had about 60 percent of all of OPEC's production, and clearly this cannot continue. Therefore instability in the world of energy is something that can be clearly observed, and to better show the complexity of the situation, it is sufficient for us to note that in the small country of Kuwait and the United Arab Emirates, together equal to about five percent of the land area of Iran with a population about the same percentage of the Iranian population, have more oil reserves than America. Moreover, in the nations which are not members of OPEC there are 23 barrels of oil reserves per capita, while in the OPEC member countries there are 1,560 barrels of oil reserves per capita. Limited energy and the movement towards a single superpower world have led America to decide to achieve undisputed dominance over all the energy resources by any means possible, including the Middle East, which serves as the vital artery for the capitalist economy of the West in the new world order.

Continuing, he added: The revolutionary nation of Iran and the Muslim nations of the region, following the decisive position of the exalted leader of the Islamic revolution, are warning America and its agents in the region that any kind of action to strengthen America's presence in the region will provoke the wrath of the Islamic nation, and that America's agents in the region will not be secure from it.

The Bojnurd deputy expressed his gratitude for the wise positions taken by the exalted leader of the revolution and for the wise measures taken by the president of the Republic concerning the Persian Gulf crisis. Elsewhere in his talk he said: Concerning the nation's industrial expansion, the establishment of justice in our economic system is of extraordinary importance, because we are heirs to a system which relies mostly on humane concepts, and its mid-Sha'ban celebration is a celebration of

justice, and we want to present it to the world as a practical model. Justice in the economic system means creating opportunities for people and creating the opportunity so that all the people in a society may make the utmost use of their abilities and talents.

He added: It is my belief that the economic system of supply and demand, which is being implemented under today's economic policies in the government of the Islamic Republic, if it can eliminate monopolies, and if it can replace monopolies with extensive cooperatives, especially in the industrial production and agricultural sectors, is the most essential aim of a government that seeks justice in economic relations, and it will mean millions of people making exchanges in voluntary cooperation. The monopoly concessions are changing the market into a battlefield for monopolies. Of course sometimes the ambiguity arises that the distribution of income with adjusted prices has increased the gap between classes and causes injustice in society. It is my belief that to solve this problem and to distribute income appropriately, it is not these prices that must be controlled. Instead, taxes and customs duties must be appropriately determined so as to support the poor citizens through the use of taxes collected from the rich citizens. Without intervening in the economic details of the lives of the people, the government can expand justice in economic activity. For this reason, I make the following suggestions to the respected government:

A - Creating a negative income tax system so that, people whose income is below a certain standard level, will receive 50 percent of the difference between their income and the standard level as assistance. For example, if one's income is the standard level of 10,000 toman per month, he neither pays taxes nor receives any assistance. Incomes above this standard level will be taxed on a progressive basis. Those whose income is below this standard level, will receive 50 percent of the difference between their income and the standard level as assistance. This system focuses on solving the poverty problem, and any assistance will be provided to the recipients in the most useful way. Of course the assistance is at a level where the motivation for individuals to work is not completely eliminated, because they only receive a percentage of their income deficit.

In any case, today our country is at a critical juncture, and through rational use of existing resources we will be able to present ourselves as a model to the other Islamic nations.

B - Because of the planning done under the former regime, in practice most of the nation's budget and revenues were spent in Tehran and the provincial centers, whether in the form of subsidies or operating and development costs, and even these expenditures were done in some special provinces. The result was nothing but the elimination of production in animal husbandry and agriculture, emigration to Tehran, the provincial centers and municipalities, and the evacuation of the rural areas. Today, praise God, this issue has been

addressed to some extent. However, concern for expanding social justice requires that more careful attention be paid in planning on to this matter. For example, why is it necessary for the subsidies and rationing systems to encourage the rural person to emigrate to the city instead of leading him to remain in the rural areas? As the Bojnurd deputy during the second term of the Majles, the great martyr Mohammad Kalaneh, said: what kind of a law is it that says this side of the wall is the city, and must receive, for example, three kilograms of rice per month, while that side of the wall is the country and must receive 1.5 kilograms of rice per month, or that the city dweller should pay 25 rials per kilogram for bread while the rural person pays 10 toman per kilogram, and when the rural person tries to bring bread from the city to the village the police confiscate his bread at the gates of the city as smuggled goods? It is entirely natural for him to abandon the village and go to the city to seek false urban employment. It is therefore necessary for the system of subsidies and rationing to shift direction to strengthen production and the foundation of production, meaning the rural areas.

C - Fair distribution of basic investments must occur uniformly throughout the country, in urban and rural areas and in the province centers, in accordance of course with the capabilities of those resources. Unfortunately, it was not this way in the past.

He called upon the executive officials of Khorasan Province to implement the development projects in that province.

Mohaqqar also thanked Hojjat ol-Eslam Hasan Sane'i for organizing the seminar to explain his holiness the imam's historic decree on the apostate Salman Rushdie.

Elias Hazrati, Rasht Deputy

The third pre-agenda speaker at yesterday's public Majles session was Elias Hazrati from the Rasht electoral district.

While offering congratulations on the birth anniversary of His Holiness Mahdi (may God hasten his joyful advent), he said: Finally, for the second time in the last decade, with Saddam's opportunism in connection with his imperialistic, plundering, and oppressive plans, we were involved with the superpowers, and once again it brought a calamity for the world of Islam. Early in the revolution it was Saddam's warlike spirit and the rotten thinking of the Ba'th party that paved the way for setting up America's goals and plans to oppose, obstruct, and impose war on our revolution. This time the same thing was repeated in the same form. Saddam's expansionism and opportunism paved the way to implement criminal America's plans, which had been disastrously thwarted after the triumph of the Islamic revolution. Following study of the position and phenomenon of the Islamic revolution, America took this opportunity seriously to oppose the Islamic revolution with its military presence in the area. After a time the Americans were able to recover consciousness from the basic and dizzying blow

they had received from the Islamic revolution at the hands of the blessed imam and the nation awakened by the imam. At that time they decided to add to their agenda, their research and their university and research institution curricula the phenomenon of the Islamic revolution, its effects in the world and especially the region's awakening, the courage nations have found, the Islamic movements and the fires and uprisings that have developed as a result of this awakening, every moment making of the region a breeding ground for incidents. After several years of study and research they concluded that to destroy the Islamic revolution and render it ineffective in the region and to convert the bravery of the nations in the region to the terror and fear of the superpowers and governments that existed in the time before the revolution, they would have to establish a stronger military presence in the region, and Saddam's actions gave them a pretext to do this. To solve the problem of Israel, control the oil and finally to maintain supremacy and their position as the only superpower, they saw no other way except direct military action. They went into action and the result took the form we now see.

He added: To continue this, the superpowers and America will certainly do military and political maneuvers and make propaganda, to promote anew the myth of the invincibility of the superpowers, especially America, in the minds of humanity, just as this idea existed before the Islamic revolution when the Islamic revolution destroyed this idea and this empty image of the superpowers.

He continued: It was anticipated from the beginning that Iraq would be defeated by America, because if a dependent country, a country that is itself an aggressor and has no popular base of support, which has no plan with regard to the Islamic nation and orthodox religion, should come into conflict with another aggressor, the decisive factor will simply be the military might of the country that has the most military power and capability.

The secret of the Islamic revolution's twelve years of triumph and steadfastness against America's aggressive policies is our independence, non-affiliation, reliance on God and the nation's support, honesty with people, struggling for the nation and Islam, observing the principles of morality and justice, not placing hopes in possible reaction from the international circles and the superpowers, the spiritual mentality of the people, and the mentality of the imam. These factors have made of our people a steel barrier that was not affected in any way by superficial weapons. In our 12-year war with the Americans, we have never occupied ourselves with superficial weapons, warships, and support from international circles.

He emphasized: The Islamic revolution was able to design a basic strategy of confronting and resisting the superpowers, and today the nations have no way other than to follow the illuminated path and valuable experience of our revolution. Of course today the responsibility of the Islamic revolution and the officials of the Islamic

government is greater than at any other time. Today no nation and no person has the ability to stop America's trouble-making in the region. It is only the Islamic revolution that bears this responsibility, and also has the ability to do it. The Islamic nations are also waiting for the Islamic revolution. Just as our late imam said again and again every moment of his life, we must break America's teeth in its mouth. Just as the exalted leader of the Islamic revolution has said in his previous speeches, and especially in his ultimatum the day before yesterday, America must not be permitted to remain in the area. It appears that our heavy responsibility and revolutionary mission has been designated. More than at any other time, every faction and every group today believing in Islam and the Islamic revolution and velayat-e faqih [guardianship of the chief jurisconsult] must speak out and cry out to clarify the commands of the esteemed imam and our dear leader. Today it is not permitted under any circumstances for us to discuss domestic problems. If we discuss domestic problems and the trivial problems that exist and if we discuss one another's problems from behind this podium, the enemy will certainly make the best use of it.

If our primary responsibility until yesterday was to remain neutral in the war and to support and sympathize with the Iraqi nation, and this was indeed the most reasonable and proper policy, if our diplomacy and constant activity until yesterday were connected with establishing peace (and I declare my own thanks and praise for these positions), definitely today all our ability and planning must center on ejecting the slime of American forces from the region. We must initiate a movement and diplomatic pressure on the part of our nation's foreign ministry on a global basis, and our cries must not cease for a moment. We must take steps to awaken nations and make domestic and defense preparations to fight the calamity that has come down around us.

He then expressed appreciation for measures taken by officials to look into the condition of earthquake victims and called for the alleviation of problems and the procurement of materials needed by earthquake victims. Hazrati also thanked the Ministry of the Interior for issuing guidelines to support the Islamic societies. He said: So far these guidelines have had no practical effect in preventing irresponsible individuals from dissolving the Islamic societies. It appears that if even official guidelines from the ministry of the interior have no effect, then a natural reaction from the Islamic societies will not be far off.

In conclusion, he expressed the hope that the Majles deputies will cooperate to the utmost in approving the revolutionary guard employment regulations, which are on the Majles agenda.

Majles Ratifications

The first item on the agenda at yesterday's public Majles session was the "bill authorizing New Year's bonus

payments for those eligible for the Martyr Raja'i project." It was approved in the following form:

This single article permits the Imam Khomeyni (may his soul be sanctified) Relief Committee to pay the remaining credits from row 129,023 (the Martyr Raja'i Project) each year as a New Year's bonus to those eligible under this project

The second item on the agenda was the report from the committee of councils and domestic affairs concerning the request from Mr. Jahangiri, Qasr-e Shirin deputy, to investigate and inquire into the work done by the Bakhtaran Province Reconstruction Headquarters, which was approved by the Majles.

Among the reasons given for the request to investigate and inquire is the failure to make progress in reconstructing the municipalities of Qasr-e Shirin, Sarpol-e Zahab, Gilan Gharb, and others, ineffective methods, as well as the failure to implement properly the Reconstruction Headquarter's ratifications and instructions for evaluating and restituting damage done to animal husbandry, agriculture, construction and other things, the loss of 10,000 files from the Bakhtaran Reconstruction Headquarters, the creation of 2,500 files in which violations have been identified, the loss of 2,000 black and white television sets from the ration supplies for the oppressed people of the area, the loss of 450 machine-made carpets, the loss of 552 vehicles belonging to the Bakhtaran Reconstruction Headquarters, the sale of the rest of the items delivered to the Bakhtaran Reconstruction Headquarters, violation of the regulations and conditions for public bidding, the loss of 500 color television sets, the sale of goods belonging to the oppressed people of Bakhtaran Province's war-stricken cities to individuals not eligible for reconstruction, the sale of basic and non-basic goods through Bakhtaran Province's urban and rural outlets without warehouse receipts and without payment, the disappearance of 1,000 refrigerators, purchases equivalent to 25 million toman from Kish Island, and the arrest of eight individuals from among the staff of the Bakhtaran Reconstruction Headquarters.

The next item on the Majles agenda was the report from the second round of consultation on the Iran Chamber of Commerce, Industry and Mines Bill, of which Articles 8, 9, 10, and 11 were approved as follows:

Article 8 - The Supreme Supervisory Council of Iran Chamber will be made up of the following persons: The ministers of commerce, economic Affairs and finance, industries, heavy industries, agriculture, and mines and metals. The chief of the Supreme Supervisory Council will be the minister of commerce.

Article 9 - The responsibility of the Supreme Supervisory Council will be as follows:

A. To study and approve guidelines on membership in each of the chambers and designating their limits as recommended by the officers;

- B. Make policy and approve general practices and supreme supervision of their proper implementation under the pertinent laws and regulations;
- C. Investigate proposals and complaints from the chambers concerning the quality of activities and how to improve their affairs;
- D. Dissolve the chambers;
- E. Appoint temporary officers for a maximum of three months to chambers that are unable to fulfill their duties, along with announcing a date for new elections;
- F. Deal with the reports submitted by the decision-making unit about the proposals received from Iran Chamber.

Note 1 - The Supreme Supervisory Council must meet at least twice a year. The procedure for organizing meetings and making them official will be stated in guidelines approved by the Supreme Supervisory Council.

Note 2 - The instances and conditions for cancellation of membership will be based on the guidelines proposed by the officers and approved by the Supreme Supervisory Council.

Article 10 - The chambers can be recessed or dissolved temporarily or permanently for the following reasons, as announced by the Supreme Supervisory Council:

1. The loss of a membership quorum;
2. Failure to participate in candidacy and accept responsibility in the chamber.

Note 1 - With the announcement of dissolution by the Supreme Supervisory Council, a committee composed of three persons selected by those councils will be designated to act on the basis of guidelines to be approved by the council and in accordance with current laws on dissolving companies with regard to the chamber's property and commitments.

Article 11 - Deputies elected by each of the chambers in the first session will serve four years and will be presented to the Iran Chamber of Commerce, Industry and Mines.

Note 1 - Every chamber with fewer than 150 members will have one deputy, and a chamber with more than 150 members will have one deputy for each 150 members.

The report from RESALAT's parliamentary correspondent states that continued consideration of the details of the Islamic Republic of Iran Chamber of Commerce, Industry and Mines draft bill was deferred to the next session. The Majles will meet in public session tomorrow morning (Tuesday).

Nepal & Bhutan

Nepal

Majority Government Unlikely as Election Nears

BK0905124391 Hong Kong AFP in English 1031 GMT 9 May 91

[By Marie-France Rouze]

[Text] Kathmandu, May 9 (AFP)—Excitement and sporadic violence have marked the first democratic election campaign in Nepal, but observers said voters are not enthusiastic enough about any one party to give it a majority in Sunday's [12 May] polls.

Most expect the Nepali Congress, a key player in the 1990 revolution which put an end to absolute monarchy, to win the most seats during Sunday's polls.

But they add that with a majority unlikely, the Congress will need the support of one or more rival parties to form a government.

The Congress' main opponents are the Nepal Communist Party (United Marxist Leninist Faction) (NPC UML), a coalition of three left-wing groups and a movement founded by leaders of the former panchayat partyless system of government.

The NPC (UML) argues that only socialism can improve life in one of the world's poorest countries, where the average per capita annual income is only 170 dollars.

The panchayat movement prohibited political parties and was decisively rejected in last year's unrest and revolution, which claimed some 500 lives.

But observers said its prospects are difficult to determine in a country of 4,000 villages, where a majority of people are illiterate and symbols are important.

In Kathmandu, a capital city spreading out below Himalayan peaks, even the walls of temples and palaces are plastered with election symbols: a tree for the Congress, a sun for the NPC (UML), and a plough and a cow for the two distinct panchayat parties with the same name—National Democratic Party (NDP).

Each of Nepal's 11.1 million voters will be asked to choose one of these symbols, electing 205 chamber of representatives members from a total of 1,345 candidates belonging to 20 different parties.

Prime Minister Krishna Prasad Bhattarai leads a cabinet including three communists appointed by King Birendra last year to help design a new constitution and prepare for elections, but hints openly that he finds it difficult to work with the leftists.

"I went to 27 (of 75) districts and found that the people want stability, democracy and the end of quarrels," the 66-year-old bachelor said Wednesday at a mass meeting which attracted tens of thousands in the capital.

Although apparently minimal security gave the meeting the feel of a giant, friendly fair, party leader Ganesh Man Singh was anything but amiable. He called the communists "criminals."

The Congress campaign has accused communist leaders of having long criminal records, while mocking communism as an outdated ideology rejected throughout the rest of the world.

The Congress' election promises include free primary education, clean water for everyone within 10 years and the elimination of poverty within 15 years, and close ties with India, Nepal's giant neighbour.

The NPC (UML) has in turn accused the congress of wanting to "sell" Nepal to the Indians, while blasting the government for tolerating skyrocketing inflation in recent months.

Sahana Pradhan, the current industry and trade minister and president of the Marxist-Leninist Party, a member of the NPC (UML), also rejected comparisons to communist governments elsewhere.

"We don't care about the Soviet Union and China," she said. "We mind our business, we want our socialism. We want radical changes in our society."

Mrs. Pradhan said her party would turn land over to the people actually cultivating it and allow private industry, but under state control. The communists would also abolish "unequal treaties" on water sharing with India, she added.

For their part, the panchayat parties complain that Mr. Bhattarai's government has shown little discipline—a charge often echoed by Kathmandu businessmen.

"The panchayat would not have allowed prices to go up like this," said one, adding that he would support a panchayat candidate.

Estimates of deaths caused by election violence range from five to 40, but Interior Minister Yog Prasad Upadhyay, while admitting that "nobody is indulging in normal politics at the moment because of the excitement," said he expected the election to be run fairly.

"This vote is a choice between stability and chaos," said one bureaucrat, who seemed to sum up the worries of many members of the middle class, who overwhelmingly favour the Congress.

"It is," he said, "a fight between communism and democracy in Nepal."

Communists Vow To Reject Treaties With India

BK1005004091 Hong Kong AFP in English 1736 GMT 9 May 91

[Text] Kathmandu, May 9 (AFP)—The Nepal Communist Party (United Marxist Leninist Faction) vowed

Thursday to reject the country's "unequal treaties" with India if elected in Sunday's general election.

"We will not recognise the unequal treaties signed by Nepal with India which largely benefit the Indians and very little for the Nepalese," party General Secretary Madan Bhandari told a mass meeting here.

He was referring to the 1950 Indo-Nepalese Peace and Friendship Treaty which many Nepalese say gave India political leverage over this land-locked Himalayan kingdom.

The party, which argues that only socialism can improve life in one of the world's poorest countries, has accused the congress of wanting to sell Nepal to the Indians.

Mr. Bhandari, who is running against Nepali Congress President and Interim Prime Minister Krishna Prasad Bhattarai here, said his party would "follow the rule of equality with our two giant neighbours," India and China. He said the Nepali Congress was the stooge of India and the western countries.

Krishna Sunder Malla, another communist candidate in a Kathmandu constituency, urged voters to support the party, saying that otherwise they "will have to repent later for their wrong decisions."

The party, a coalition of three left-wing groups, is a movement founded by leaders of the former panchayat partyless system of government. The panchayat movement banned political parties and was decisively rejected in last year's unrest, which claimed some 500 lives. All parties have to stop electioneering from midnight Thursday.

Later Thursday, Prime Minister Bhattarai said the government would take tough action to punish cases of election-related violence.

"We, the Nepalese, are peaceful by nature and I don't think there would be any serious violence during the election", he said on national television.

"If anybody tries to disturb the election, the government will deal severely and sternly punish no matter whosoever one may be," he said.

"We will not spare even our own party activists if found guilty of involving in disrupting the general election," he added. He was referring to the arrest of two candidates—one from the Nepali Congress and another from the Chand faction of the pro-panchayat National Democratic Party—in manslaughter cases.

Mr. Bhattarai also denied communist allegations that the Nepali Congress would sell out the country to India, though he said that his party did want closer ties with Nepal's powerful neighbour.

"There is no such thing as selling a country to anybody... We do not want to tilt towards any country," he said.

6 Killed in Prepoll Violence; Security Tightened*BK1005030991 Delhi Domestic Service in English
0240 GMT 10 May 91*

[Text] In Nepal, electioneering for Sunday's [12 May] general elections ended last night. About 11 million voters will decide the fate of over 1,300 candidates for the 205-member house of representatives. The AIR [All India Radio] Kathmandu correspondent says prepoll violence has claimed at least six lives. The government has made elaborate security arrangements by deploying the army in all the districts beside 72,000 policemen to maintain law and order.

King Urges All Citizens To Vote in Election*HK1005085591 Hong Kong AFP in English 0729 GMT
10 May 91*

[Text] Kathmandu, May 10 (AFP)—King Birendra of urged [as received] all Nepalese adults to vote in Sunday's [12 May] general elections, the first since a popular campaign for multiparty democracy last year led to the sharp reduction of his power.

In a message broadcast Friday by state-run television and radio, the king urged that the elections be "free, fair and peaceful."

Voting for 205 members of the House of Representatives will start early Sunday, with more than 60 percent of Nepal's 11.1 million eligible voters expected to exercise their right, an official source said.

The noisy scene of the feverish electioneering in Kathmandu and other towns calmed down following the expiry of the campaign deadline at midnight Thursday, though two suburban townships were plastered with campaign posters overnight.

Nepalese voters will be participating in the country's first multi-party elections in more than three decades.

King Birendra, who had ruled through the partyless Panchayat system, transferred his sovereign authority to the public following a 50-day popular campaign last spring jointly led by the Nepali Congress and the United Left Front (ULF), a coalition of leftist parties.

In his message, the Harvard-educated monarch urged voters to consider the best interest of Nepal and cast their votes after mature reflection of how best to strengthen and consolidate the democratic process.

"Successful consummation of a momentous event such as the countrywide polls for the national legislature is the common responsibility of all the citizens," he said. "Duty towards the country and people requires honest and fair effort to fulfill this responsibility."

"We are confident that all adult citizens will make full use of their right to vote and contribute to make the forthcoming general election a great success," he added.

Pakistan**Further Reportage on Kashmir Situation****Indian Envoy Summoned***BK0905154491 Islamabad Domestic Service in Urdu
1500 GMT 9 May 91*

[Text] The Indian high commissioner was summoned to the Foreign Office in Islamabad today and was apprised of Pakistan's concern over the [word indistinct] incidents of prolonged Indian artillery shelling and firing from other weapons from across the line of control in Kashmir. A number of people were killed or injured in several villages in the area due to these incidents, and houses, shops and public utility buildings were heavily damaged.

The Indian high commissioner was told that the Indian Government should refrain from provocative activities because the tension between the two countries is increasing due to these activities.

Beg: Shelling Increases Tension*BK0905161091 Islamabad Domestic Service in Urdu
1500 GMT 9 May 91*

[Text] Armed Forces Chief General Mirza Aslam Beg has said that the Armed Forces of Pakistan are fully capable of facing any aggression against the country's territorial integrity. He said this while addressing in-training officers [words indistinct] on the topic of the role and performance of the Pakistani Armed Forces in Karachi today. The Army chief discussed at length the current situation in occupied Kashmir and said that despite Pakistan's wholehearted efforts to normalize relations with India, the tension between the two countries has increased due to unprovoked shelling by Indian forces on the line of control and its brutal oppression of innocent Kashmiri people.

Delegation Leaves for UK*BK0905165691 Islamabad Domestic Service in English
1600 GMT 9 May 91*

[Text] A five-member delegation of prominent Kashmiri leaders left Islamabad today for Britain on the first leg of their campaign to apprise leaders and general public of the genocide of Kashmiri Muslims by Indian troops in occupied Kashmir. The delegation includes the president of the Jammu and Kashmir Muslim League, retired Major General Mohammad Hayat Khan; president of the Liberation League, barrister Sultan Mahmud; Mr. Khaled Ibrahim of the Azad Kashmir People's Party; and Mohammad Latif Qadri of the Muslim Conference.

Indian Minister's Punjab Statement Rebutted*BK1005013091 Islamabad Domestic Service in Urdu
0100 GMT 10 May 91*

[Text] A Foreign Office spokesman in Islamabad has described as totally wrong, baseless, and fabricated the

statement by Subodh Kant Sahay, Indian minister of state for home affairs, that Pakistan is trying to disrupt the election process in Indian Punjab. He reaffirmed Pakistan's policy of not interfering in other countries' internal affairs and said Pakistan has repeatedly assured India at the highest level that it is not interfering in the affairs of Indian Punjab.

The spokesman regretted that the Indian Government has been levelling baseless accusations despite Pakistan's repeated sincere efforts to cooperate in curbing illegal activities along the Punjab border which only aims at

hiding its failure to control the deteriorating law and order situation in the Indian Punjab.

The spokesman also described as totally wrong and mischievous the allegation that Pakistan is sending trained armed personnel to [Indian] occupied Kashmir. He added that the irresponsible statements by the Indian minister of state are part of a regrettable propaganda campaign against Pakistan which aims to divert the world community's attention from the inhumane atrocities perpetrated by the Indian security forces and the naked violation of human rights in occupied Kashmir.